

Bosses back traffic flow scheme despite opposition

RAIL CROSSING CLOSURE HOPE

Report by Alex Ross

A ROAD improvement scheme for Bloxwich, designed to lessen the impact of closing the town's railway level crossing, has received the support of business leaders.

Signal upgrades, junction improvements and traffic calming will be rolled out across the area under the project.

It is hoped to improve the flow of traffic – thereby limiting the damage caused by the closure of the crossing, due to increasing speed of trains along the line.

The crossing is on Willenhall Lane, part of the town's industrial area and regularly used as a rat-run to avoid some of the traffic on the high street.

Members of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership endorsed the £100,000 road improvements.

It will now go before the Black Country Executive Joint Committee for a final decision.

Detrimental

The money will come from the region's Growth Deal programme.

Funding has already been secured from Network Rail and Walsall Council.

A report to an LEP board meeting last month, highlighting the issue stated: "This closure will regrettably be detrimental to local vehicular access and will force some traffic to re-route in the area – hence the need for mitigation measures."

"This is because the line speed improvements envisaged on the Chase Line Railway can only be realised once the speed restriction is removed at Bloxwich with the permanent closure of the crossing."

It added: "Investment in highway mitigation measures around the soon-to-close Bloxwich Level Crossing will help achieve retention of businesses, and jobs, in the Bloxwich area, especially on the Leamore Lane Trading Estate."

The rail crossing has been opposed locally, however.

Linda Clarke, manageress at the Hatherton Arms, said: "It will impact our pub as we get many customers from across the line."

"People are not very happy with it."

A petition was launched by people in Dudley Fields, amid fears it would lead to increased traffic in the residential area.

The crossing itself is expected to close by the end of this year.

DELIGHT AS TOWN CARNIVAL HAILED A SUCCESS



Carnival queen Ellie-Faye Harrison and Princess Chantelle Vernon



The carnival swings into action at Willenhall Memorial Park

HUNDREDS of revellers packed a festival field for 'one of the best ever' Willenhall carnivals this weekend.

Organisers breathed a sigh of relief as the rain held off for the biggest day in the town's social calendar.

An estimated 2,000 people turned out on Saturday for the crowded programme of fun and entertainment at Willenhall Memorial Park in Pinson Road. The annual extravaganza, which dates back to the 1920s, was officially opened by Walsall's new mayor, Councillor Marco Longhi.

Highlights of the day included the crowning of the carnival royalty and a quirky dog competition, organised by the RSPCA, with categories including 'waggiest tail' and 'the dog judges would most like to take home'.

More than 50 stalls, a falconry display, live music, funfair, car boot sale, disco dome and inflatables were also among the attractions.

A float carried the carnival queen, 16-year-old Ellie-Faye Harrison, and her attendants into the park. Residents have rallied round over the past 12 months to raise the £5,000 needed to stage the event. A Santa run in December and a fancy-dress pub crawl a couple of weeks ago were among the fundraising events held. The event was organised by Wayne Palmer and Sandra Dixon.

Carl Haycock, a committee member whose stepson Travis Brookshaw celebrated his 11th birthday as the carnival duke, said: "It went brilliantly. The place was ram-packed."

"There was a great programme of entertainment – we had the whole shebang. It's hard work to put on and takes months of organising but it's worth it to see the smiles on the faces of the kids enjoying themselves."

Resident Caz Baker posted on Facebook afterwards: "Great atmosphere and community spirit – probably one of the best years so far."

APPEAL

Tools and machinery taken from container

TWO men smashed their way into a business premises before using a car to force open a storage container and fleeing with garden tools and machinery.

CCTV captured two suspects using a silver Ford Focus to target a company on Lichfield Road in Brownhills.

One man was in a red and black checkered shirt while the other was wearing a high visibility vest and beige trousers.

Staffordshire Police were prompted to issue a public appeal about the break-in which happened at 5.13am on Friday.

Anyone with details should use the incident reference 91 of June 9 and call 101.

PLANNING

Another gipsy site planned for village

RESIDENTS face a fresh fight after a new application for a gipsy site in Essington was lodged. Four previous applications for the site, near residential properties on Long Lane, have been rejected. The scheme was submitted to South Staffordshire Council.

Councillor David Clift said: "Residents will be fighting this again, there is a gipsy site just around the corner and there's already three in Essington."

A public meeting takes place tonight, Thursday, at Wryley Juniors Football Club on Long Lane at 7pm.

THEFTS

Extra police patrols as vehicle crime up

POLICE are urging residents to be on their guard after a rise in vehicle crime.

Officers in the Willenhall Neighbourhood Police Team have increased patrols in the area following the increase.

And the force is now providing people in the area with information in order to prevent it from happening.

Peter Cattell, police community support officer in Willenhall, said: "Vehicle crime is opportunistic. If thieves think there is something valuable in your car, they will target it. Even something like an old coat or a carrier bag on the rear seat can tempt a thief. They will not know what is in it."

INSIDE

Robert in step for run to help legion



PAGE 3



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Alert issued after bogus council staff in con raid

TWO men posed as council workers during a distraction burglary.

The connen targeted a home in Riddings Crescent, Pelsall, last Wednesday morning, stealing a jewellery box containing items of jewellery from the elderly female occupier before leaving in a white van.

The thieves were allowed entry into the property after pretending to be from Walsall Council, claiming they had come to help with guttering.

While one spoke to the woman downstairs, the other went upstairs and took the box before leaving.

West Midlands Police sergeant Deborah Gallon has asked that people report any suspicious activity.

She said: "Unfortunately at around 11.10am on Wednesday morning a distraction burglary occurred in Riddings Crescent, Pelsall, whereby two males purporting to be from the council have duped the occupant and stolen from her."

"Officers were on the scene quickly. However the males left in a white van with ladders prior to their arrival. Please be vigilant and report anything suspicious."

Councillor Marco Longhi, who represents the Pelsall ward, said: "This is nothing new but it is always sad to hear about. My advice to everybody would be do not open your door unless you are sure of who is there."

Rambling on with weekend walking

THE Walsall Group of the Ramblers will be going on another short walk on Saturday, of four miles, at Coton in the Elms, Derbyshire.

The meeting point is the car park at Oak Park C. P. (Lichfield Road) at 9.30am. More information can be obtained from the Walk Leaders on 01922 459208

Then on Sunday, the group will be heading to Worcestershire for a 10-mile circular walk taking on the 'Great Witley', a moderate walk viewing Witley Court and the surrounding countryside. Non-members are always welcome on walks and can obtain more information from the walk leaders on 01922 635152 or 07713 341 856

More information about the Walsall Group is available on The Ramblers website www.ramblers.org.uk/walsall

Bus operator in clean air pledge

ARRIVA Midlands workers will today, Thursday, be spreading the word about cutting vehicle emissions and fighting pollution, during the UK's first-ever National Clean Air Day.

The event, co-ordinated by environmental change charity Global Action Plan, is a chance for people to find out more about air pollution and take positive action to help create cleaner air.

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PLANNING bosses meet today, Thursday, to discuss the future of an eyesore pub amid plans to build apartments in its place.

Developer SEP Properties has applied to build 17 flats on the site of The Eagle, on Cresswell Crescent, in Bloxwich.

In November, travellers set up camp outside the derelict pub, which was shut in 2007 after a man was shot.

The proposal is to demolish the

existing public house and erect an apartment block of 17 one-bed flats with parking spaces in its place.

Walsall Council's planning committee will discuss the application, with it being recommended that they delegate the decision to the head of planning to approve based on organising a suitable section 106 agreement.

This is despite concerns being raised by residents that the apartments block will be out of character with other buildings in the area.

Papers set to be discussed at the meeting read: "Objections have been raised that the design and visual appearance of the building is out of keeping with the surrounding properties and that a two storey building would be more appropriate.

"On balance it is considered that the three storey building does not adversely affect the character of the surrounding area and offers the opportunity to make more efficient use of derelict land in the urban area."

Mosque to get major revamp in new plans

A MOSQUE is in line for a major revamp including a library and resource centre and extra car parking.

The Muslim Welfare Society wants to make changes to the existing mosque on Bills Street in Darlaston, which it says will 'enhance' the existing place of worship as opposed to creating a 'super mosque'.

The plans include building a new two-storey extension to the main building, which will make it more accessible for disabled people, as well as create a dedicated entrance for children in order to meet requirements stipulated by the Department for Education.

The flat roof on the mosque will be replaced by a pitched roof in order to address a number of problems including leaking water. A new two-storey library and resource centre will also be built.

Planning chiefs are set to give the plans the go-ahead at a meeting on Thursday.

Darlaston councillor Doug James praised the plans and called on Walsall Council's planning committee to give them the green light.

Sceptical

He said: "The Bills Street mosque is undergoing some substantial redevelopment and that area is becoming a cultural centre. I know they have worked very hard on the plans.

"There is a slight controversy as there always is with plans like these because people do not like physical re-developments and they are always sceptical of places of culture and religion. But it helps to break down barriers and I hope the planning committee approve it when it comes before them on Thursday."

The plans were originally approved in April last year but stalled after an agreement on parking fell through.

The mosque had wanted to provide additional parking to the rear of its premises but due to 'legal issues' the landowners could not sign up to the agreement.

In response to this the Muslim Welfare Society has now secured an agreement with a separate landowner for a 30-space car park on Salisbury Street, around 410 metres walking distance from the mosque.



The Eagle pub site in Bloxwich



The Bill Street mosque

Father and son join up racing ranks



16-year-old Robert with his father Richard who are both running in aid of the Royal British Legion

A TEENAGER who became the youngest person in Britain to take on a 400ft bungee jump – is set to take on his next challenge with his dad.

Robert Hooper, aged 16, did the bungee jump for The Royal British Legion and is now setting his eyes on the Monmouth 12k Challenge Run. As part of his fitness training in preparation for joining the Army, this time with the help of his father Richard, he will once again be raising money for The Royal British Legion. All of the

funds going towards the charity's Poppy Appeal.

Robert, from Walsall, said: "Charity work has always been important to me and this is the most important fundraising challenge I've undertaken so far, as I start my phase 1 training for my military career soon."

The family are no strangers to fundraising, as mum Georgina is involved in the Remembrance Concert in Aldridge and the family as a whole support local Poppy Organiser Harry Fry with the Poppy

Appeal collection in November. Dad, Richard, said of the latest challenge: "I am very proud to be running with my son and supporting him before he starts his basic army training."

The money will go towards the Aldridge area Poppy Appeal total.

Anyone who is interested in running a fundraiser or volunteering for the Royal British Legion or the Poppy Appeal can contact, Alison Bates, community fundraiser on 01889 575496 or email abates@britishlegion.org.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arrest made after man's ear bitten

A MAN had his ear bitten off in an early morning attack outside a petrol station in Rugeley.

The incident, involving a 22-year-old, happened on the forecourt of the Ezzo Service Station on Western Springs Road, Rugeley.

The victim, from Rugeley, suffered serious injuries to his ear and was taken to hospital in Nottingham. It happened around 2.35am on May 27.

A 21-year-old man, from Bloxwich, was arrested on suspicion of causing grievous bodily harm with intent. He has been released under investigation.

Pedestrian badly hurt in accident

A PEDESTRIAN in his 60s suffered potentially life threatening injuries after being hit by a car in Walsall.

Bentley Road North, in Bentley, was closed by police as investigations were under way into the circumstance of the accident.

Emergency services were called to the scene at around 2.30pm on Friday after a car overturned.

West Midlands Ambulance Service say paramedics treated a pedestrian at the scene.

Anyone with information on the crash is asked to call police on 101.

Company's take on My fair Lady

ONE of Birmingham's top amateur musical theatre companies is staging the stylish musical My Fair Lady next week.

BMOS Musical Theatre Company, which was founded 130 years ago, will stage the show at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from June 20 to 24.

See bmosmusicals.org or www.atgtickets.com/shows/my-fair-lady/ or new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham for tickets.

West End stars lead Bond theme concert

WEST End stars will lead a musical celebration of The Best of James Bond at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday night.

More than 50 years of Bond themes, such as From Russia With Love, Diamonds Are Forever, Young Only Live Twice and Skyfall, will be sung by former Wicked stars Louise Dearman and Oliver Tompsett, accompanied by the London Concert Orchestra.

See tsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333 for tickets.

Bargains and fun

THERE will be lots of bargains up for grabs and fun to be had at a summer fair which takes place at a Walsall church on Saturday.

Holy Ascension Church, on Sandstone Road, Lower Farm, Bloxwich is staging the event which opens its doors at 1pm.

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COUNTY NEWS

Chamber takes on business chat

BLACK Country Chamber of Commerce is the new host of the Twitter Chat Hour #blkcountrhour.

The Chat Hour is a way for the community and businesses in the area to get involved in social media to promote the great things they are doing.

The #blkcountrhour takes place every Tuesday between 7pm and 8pm on Twitter, and people can take part using the hashtag. The aim of the hour is to get more local firms working together and investing in the region. For more information go to twitter.com/hashtag/BlkCountryHour.

Hugh back in saddle with mic

BLACK Country cycling legend Hugh Porter has picked up the microphone again to commentate on the action from stage one of the Women's Cycling Tour.

The 77-year-old, who was the BBC's cycling commentator for more than 30 years, is commentating on ITV 4's coverage of the cycling, which broadcast its first programme last Wednesday.

The Wolverhampton former cyclist, who was let go by the BBC four years ago, said: "ITV 4 really is the go to channel for cycling coverage, it does superbly in that area."

Troops' overseas training exercise

ARMY reserve troops from the Midlands have just returned from a successful two-week deployment to Spain.

The annual training exercise saw around 100 soldiers train with Spanish troops as part of Exercise Iberian Star.

Soldiers from the 4th Battalion the Mercian Regiment (4Mercian), based at Wolverhampton, were on exercise with the 45th regiment in Cordoba, southern Spain.

Comedy event back at Light House

ANOTHER Comedy with Cake fundraising event is being held for the Light House Media Centre in Wolverhampton. Black Country comic Jonny Cole will top the bill at the Light House in the Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street, on Sunday, June 25 at 2pm.

Tickets for the comedy and variety show are £8 from 01902 716055. Also performing will be Wes Zaharuk, Hannah Silvester and Ian Crawford.

Cakes and drinks will be on sale from 1.15pm and in the interval.

Art on reflection

A WOLVERHAMPTON artist has an exhibition of work running at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre.

Aimee Millward's Virtual Mirrors, which explores reality and abstraction in the Black Country, will be on show during opening hours at the centre in Tipton Road.

Global testing lab brings 30 jobs

A GLOBAL lab-testing firm has opened a 50,000 sq ft base in the Black Country, creating more than 30 jobs. Exova unveiled its new hub in Wednesbury last week, with the multi-million investment a signal of its continued growth.

The new testing site serves the needs of national and international customers in the automotive, door, window and hardware industries.

The facility, at Wednesbury One, on the Black Country New Road, which will conduct more than 10,000 tests annually.

Workers at the firm test a number of products, including the security, durability and weather testing of doors, windows and hardware and flammability, vibration and emissions from cars. It is the latest big name to open in Wednesbury, following the launch

of the Lidl distribution centre overlooking the M6.

Ian El-Mokadem, chief executive of Exova, said: "This is an important milestone in the growth of our automotive and building products testing businesses, which work for some of the world's leading household names."

"Bringing these testing services together, close to our key customers, will enable us to increase efficiency and

turnaround times, and give greater access to Exova's global expertise."

Paul Forrest, director of West Midlands Economic Forum, welcomed the arrival of the firm to the Black Country.

He said: "Centres such as this enable the region to drive forward as a key supplier at the apex of global value-added supply chains."

Goldie is back on track with new album release

Report by Tom Oakley

WALSALL-BORN DJ and performer Goldie is tomorrow, Friday, releasing his first studio album for almost 20 years.

The 51-year-old musician's new 16-track record The Journey Man will be his first album since Saturnz Return came out in 1998 – in which he co-wrote the track Truth with David Bowie.



New LP – Goldie

Goldie, known as Clifford Joseph Price, was born in Walsall and spent much of his youth growing up in Wolverhampton's Heath Town.

He has won a MOBO and been made an MBE among other accolades.

From children's homes in the West Midlands through stints in New York and Miami as one of the UK's most celebrated exponents of graffiti art to rubbing shoulders with David Bowie and Noel Gallagher – he has been one of the most influential figures in British music over the last 30 years.

Producer

He said: "In my music is everything I've learned, everyone I've met, everything I've experienced."

"I often look at music not so much as a producer but like a director. You're drawing together engineers, performers and arrangers to create something special, something magical. It's like alchemy."

"The notes, the music, the lyrics, they're all in my head and each element has to be communicated and brought to life to create the finished track."

The album comprises two parts, 16 brand tracks in total, all written and produced by Goldie.

It also features a host of collaborators handpicked by Goldie to help realise his vision for the album.

Some of the tracks on the new album include Horizons (featuring Swindle), Prism, Mountains and I Think Of You.

Goldie was a member of breakdance crew called the Bboys before making his name as a graffiti artist.

A world of fun on offer for youngsters



Year Five and Six pupils during their topic on Oceania for Glenthorne Goes Global at the Cheslyn Hay school

A VILLAGE primary school went global as youngsters in Cheslyn Hay dressed the part for a continental topic.

A whole-school inspiration day was held at Glenthorne Primary, in the village near Walsall, with activities on hand to help the pupils learn more about the continent they are studying.

They tasted food typical of different continents, learned about greetings in different languages, made native arts and crafts and took part in other fun learning activities.

Europe is the topic for the Glenthorne Drive school's Little Acorns and Rising Threes, while nursery and reception class are looking at Africa.

Meanwhile the theme for Years 1 and 2 is Asia, while

Years 3 and 4 are concentrating on the Americas, and finally Oceania is the chosen topic for the older children in Years 5 and 6.

Among the older groups' activities were Haka dancing and tasting foods such as crocodile burgers, ostrich sausages and kiwi fruit.

Some dressed as surfers and outback conservationists. One even turned up as an All Blacks rugby player.

A school spokesman said: "To help cement the children's learning, all children came dressed in clothes typical for the continent that they are studying."

"Some children came in traditional dress, and as we know that this is not what people wear on a day to day basis, some children also came in holiday style clothing."

Burglar told he will not serve any extra time

A PROLIFIC burglar already behind bars has been told he will not serve any additional time despite admitting a further break-in.

Matthew Walters appeared before a judge via video link from Featherstone Prison to pleaded guilty to burglary in Anglesey Road, Brownhills.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard he was already serving five years and seven months and that he had committed six other burglaries since August 2009.

His latest crime took place on February 25. After forcing entry to the family home through a patio door, Walters took jewellery worth £260, a Samsung GALAXY S III mobile phone, DKNY perfume and bank cards. He later used a card to buy goods from Tesco Express in Streetly resulting in a further charge of fraud to which he also pleaded guilty.

Mr Patrick Sullivan, prosecuting, said Walters, aged 31, spent a total of £188.41 using the card.

Walters, previously of no fixed address, was sentenced to three years for the burglary and 12 months for the fraud, to run alongside each other.

Judge Michael Challinor said: "Because of your record you are bound to receive the minimum three year sentence for this burglary. And because you are serving a sentence of five years and seven months it would not be appropriate to add to that."

"For practical reasons I can't increase your sentence. Therefore there will be little or no impact on your eventual release."

Revolvers seized as police stop car

SIX revolvers were seized from a car after it was stopped by armed police.

The car was forced to stop in Little Aston Road, Aldridge, by trained firearms officers who used special rounds to deflate its tyres.

Two men in their 40s were arrested on suspicion of possession of firearms, and the guns were recovered. The men have since been released while inquiries continue.

The incident happened at 1.20pm last Tuesday as part of an intelligence-led operation.

The West Midlands Police account for Brownhills tweeted: "West Midlands Police firearms officers carried out an enforced stop on a vehicle in Aldridge today. No danger to the public and all in order." The force said the incident was not terror related.

Space is inspiration for musical concerts

SPACE inspires a pair of special concerts in Birmingham later this month.

The Space Spectacular: Star Wars & Beyond concert – on June 23, at 7.30pm and June 25, at 3pm – will be held at Symphony Hall. See tsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

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Partnership will spread message on child safety

NSPCC chiefs have said a new partnership between the charity and a safeguarding children's board will help ensure a campaign to keep children safe from abuse reaches even more people.

Walsall Safeguarding Children Board is working with the NSPCC.

The children's board will help the charity deliver one of its most popular and impactful campaigns across Walsall.

Since 2012, the NSPCC's 'Underwear Rule' campaign - also known as the PANTS campaign - has been supporting and encouraging parents to talk to children aged four to 11 about staying safe from sexual abuse.

The PANTS tools and resources give parents clear and simple ways to open these conversations in a child-friendly way.

The key messages for children are: your body belongs to you, you have the right to say no, and you should talk to an adult if you have a secret that upsets them.

Ally Sultana, the NSPCC's Midlands campaigns manager, said: "This is an incredibly exciting project. With the support of the Safeguarding Children's Board we can reach more families and professionals, offering them our support and knowledge."

The first phase of the year-long campaign will focus on embedding the PANTS resources within primary schools.

To find out how more about talking PANTS contact Ally Sultana at ally.sultana@nspcc.org.uk

Former mayors to host tours

FORMER mayors of Walsall are to give residents tours of municipal buildings in the town later this year.

Guided tours will be held on three occasions in 2017. The tours have been set up by the Walsall Guild of Former Mayors, with a team of two former mayors set to host the events in September, October and November.

Councillor Angela Underhill, who was mayor of Walsall for 2015-16, said: "The town hall is a wonderful building that often goes unnoticed by people living in Walsall. We think that is a shame and we hope it will be a great experience for people."

The tours are to be held on September 20, October 17 and November 23, with admission £3 and £2 for concessions. Call 01922 279660 for details.

Display documents history of town

AN exhibition detailing Rushall's Past and Present will go before the public next week.

The display will be held at Rushall Community Centre on June 24 from 11am to 3pm. Entry is free.

Hope for kittens to get crisp new start



The five dumped kittens

FIVE kittens dumped in a crisp box have been taken into foster care by the RSPCA and are now looking for a new permanent home.

Pringle, Pom, Wotsit, Skip and Snaps, named after popular snacks, were found abandoned in a Walkers crisp box. They were taken to Birmingham animal hospital to be treated as they were showing signs of cat flu but after being deemed well enough they were taken into foster care by the RSPCA in Walsall.

Now the kittens are looking to find a new permanent home.

RSPCA Walsall said on Facebook: "The kittens are all absolutely adorable little souls, they each have their own individual personalities and although they are a close knit group of five, there are friendships which have been formed between certain kittens."

"Pringle (smallest black male) is the most confident kitten out of them all. He is always causing mischief and is always the first to explore, with the others not far behind him."

"Wotsit (ginger and white male) is very good friends with Skip (bigger black male with white hairs on his

chest) so we'd ideally like them to go as a pair. Pom is the only little girl in the litter, she is the dark tortie (black and ginger). Snaps (black and white male) is very cheeky, he is always the first into the food bowl. He gets on well with all the kittens."

"The kittens have all been health checked by a vet, microchipped, flea'd, wormed and they have had their first vaccination. They will need to come back to our vet in Walsall on June 22 for their second vaccination."

Those interested should email enquiries@rspca-walsall.org.uk.

Merger fears as logistics group DX in police probe

DX Group, the delivery company with a major operation in the Black Country, is being investigated by the City of London Police over an allegation relating to its secure document operations.

The move has cast a shadow over its proposed merger with John Menzies' distribution unit.

The investigation, being undertaken by City's Economic Crime Directorate, is at a 'very early stage' and DX said it was 'co-operating fully' with the probe.

"The board of DX announces that it has been notified by the City of London Police Economic Crime Directorate of an allegation that has been made against the company which has resulted in the commencement of a preliminary investigation centred on the DX Exchange operations," the company said in a stock exchange announcement.

"The investigation is at a very early stage. The board of DX received the details of the allegation on June 7, 2017, and is co-operating fully with the City of London Police. A further announcement will be made when appropriate."

Opposition

DX is based in Slough but employs around 550 people at its two delivery depots in Willenhall, at Crestwood House in Birches Rise and Ashmore Lake Way. It recently failed in its attempt to secure planning permission for a new £36m super-hub at Essington.

This would have provided a new home for its existing operations and created 150 new jobs. But South Staffordshire councillors voted against the scheme following fierce opposition from local people.

DX has subsequently said it is looking for an alternative site, which could see it move from Willenhall to Rugby or Coventry.

The company's DX Exchange business offers next day delivery of documents including contracts, deeds, property settlements, financial agreements, barrister's briefs and original official documents. It has around 25,000 members of its DX Exchange network across the UK and Ireland. DX Exchange operates through a network of 4,200 mailbox locations, known as Exchanges. The logistics firm is in the midst of a £40 million merger with Menzies' distribution unit, but the Edinburgh company said that it is now "considering its position".

Knockout night goes down a storm



Paralympian Ellie Simmonds with Stormzy and Anthony Joshua

PARALYMPIC gold medalist Ellie Simmonds met up with boxing champ Anthony Joshua and grime artist Stormzy at an awards evening.

The 22-year-old, from Walsall, was pictured with the duo at the 14th Glamour Women Of The Year awards in London.

Among those lining the red carpet were the likes of Hollywood actress Nicole Kidman.

Both Stormzy and Joshua have

had an impressive 2017. Stormzy claimed a number one album, while Joshua became world heavyweight champion.

Meanwhile, Ellie swapped the swimming pool for the cold and wet countryside to appear on BBC Two's Springwatch Unsprung show alongside host Chris Packham yhe next day.

The pair were at the London Wetland Centre in Richmond upon Thames, hidden in a camou-

flage tent while they observed the wildlife around them.

During the show, Ellie revealed that swimming with dolphins made her develop a passion for ocean conservation and protecting wildlife.

It comes after she dived into open water earlier this year for her own ITV show Ellie Simmonds Swimming with Dolphins. She said the creatures had made a 'massive impression' on her.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gutters work con pair steal CCTV

TWO bogus cold callers raided the home of an elderly and disabled resident after offering to clean their gutters for £5.

The victim who lives at Castle Close, Brownhills, thought the culprits were window cleaners and went off to fetch them some water.

In the meantime they went rummaging around the home stealing a CCTV system.

A police spokesman said: "At the moment it is believed that just some CCTV has been stolen. The victim is elderly and disabled."

Yobs in water balloon attacks

WATER balloons are being hurled at people from yobs in a car, police have reported. A number of incidents have been reported in the Aldridge and Streetly areas in recent days.

West Midlands Police have been prompted to appeal for the public to pass on useful information, such as the registration details of the cars involved, in order for them to stop the latest brand of anti-social behaviour.

PCSO Tracy Ash, who operates in the Aldridge area, said: "If you have any information or registration numbers please contact 101."

Mental health trust forum date

A MENTAL health trust hosts a forum allowing people to share their views next week.

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust will hold the event on Thursday, June 22, from 11am to 1pm, at Forest Arts Centre in Hawbush Road, Walsall.

Attendees will hear from a service user and gain a perspective on peer support. A free lunch will be provided.

Email communication@dwmh.nhs.uk or call 01384 325015 to book.

Drink-drive charge after car hits cafe

A MAN is to appear in court charged with drink driving after a car crashed into a cafe in Willenhall.

The incident happened early on Saturday, June 3 at the Crossroads Cafe in Albion Street.

Police have now confirmed that Peter Faulkes, aged 45, of The Hayes, Willenhall, will appear at Walsall Magistrates Court on June 29 charged with drink driving.

No-one at the cafe was available to comment on the damage caused.

£2m scheme backed

A CARE agency for adults with learning disabilities has opened a new £2m supported living scheme.

Select Lifestyles Limited has been granted permission to convert and extend the former St Aidans Church on Hawbush Road to form eight self-contained flats, bringing 25 full time jobs.

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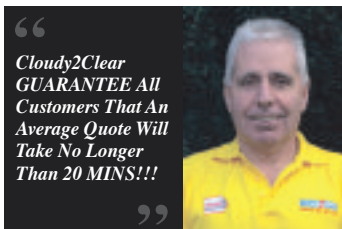
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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



This tribal hatred in politics is out of order

NOT long ago, at a match between Aston Villa and Birmingham City, it quickly became apparent to me that I seemed to be the only one in the stand who was actually watching the game.

All those sat around me had turned round in their seats, facing almost 90 degrees away from the pitch, shouting abuse in the direction of the opposition fans. The tribal hatred appeared to be far more important than the game itself.

I only raise the point because that seems to be about the quality of the debate we have had regarding the General Election over the past few weeks. As opinions have become polarised, the amount of venom and hatred being spewed out on so-called social media has become ridiculous.

Take, for example, the delightful Caitlin Moran who took time out from her usual hobby of sneering at Wolverhampton to use the "C-word" to denounce anybody who did not vote the same way as her. Nice. And people I have known for years, otherwise sensible people with responsible jobs, have taken to insulting those who don't agree with them in highly-charged rants. And with a few taps on a smart-phone or computer, friendships which have endured for decades are soured forever.

Now all this stuff is out the way – for a few weeks at least – it really is time for everybody to calm down and get a sense of perspective. We are lucky to live in a democracy where we have a number of different, relatively benign parties to choose from. No political opponents means no democracy, and we all know where that leads.

Oh, and no opposing team means no football match either. Not that some fans would actually notice.

□ □ □

WHEN I first heard that the old Wolverhampton bus depot in Cleveland Road was about to close, my first thoughts were one of sadness. After all, the building – originally the headquarters of the Wolverhampton Tramways Corporation – will be 115 years old this year, and with a little bit of funding would have made a first-rate transport museum that could have attracted thousands of people to the city and given the economy a much-needed lift. Realistically, though, at a time when our existing museums are struggling for survival, that was always going to be a forlorn hope.

However, my gloom was lifted when I drove past the site for the first time, and saw how the demolition had opened up a superb view of the majestic Royal Hospital.

This has the potential to be a fantastic gateway to the city, and the perfect response to those who seem to take pleasure in deriding the area at every available opportunity. Let's hope the opportunity isn't wasted.

Act as a loyal group and we can foil the terrorists



BBC presenter Evan Davis – honest about attention paid to emails and letters



Anne Reid, left, in Dinnerladies – one of the funniest moments in sitcoms



Peter Sallis in Last of the Summer Wine – the star has died at a ripe old 96

Don't waste time complaining to BBC

NOW the General Election is over, you can bet that thousands of the We Woz Robbed tendency will be blaming everything on bias in the media. If you're thinking of complaining to the BBC, save your breath.

INSTEAD, heed these words from the BBC presenter Evan Davis on how much attention the Beeb pays to the thousands of emails and letters it receives accusing it of political bias.

Speaking at the Hay Festival a few days ago, Davis declared: "All the time we get those. And honestly, no-one at the BBC takes those kinds of things into account."

"Maybe people at the very top of the BBC do, I don't know. Maybe they do. But none of the people who are making programmes do." Thanks for being so honest, Mr Davis. Now, can I have my £147 back?

I WROTE recently about how medical advice and health tips are regarded as holy writ one minute and medieval gibberish the next.

One of the oldest mantras among seekers of eternal life is 'the whiter your bread, the sooner you're dead'. Researchers in Israel have just reported 'no clinically significant differences' in trials of white bread versus artisan wholemeal sourdough bread. How long before white sugar is hailed as a health food?

MORE reports emerge of Joe Public fighting back against the London Bridge terrorists, and how heartening it is.

It may seem a dangerous choice and is obviously madness if guns are being brandished. But these terrorists are not supermen. They can be defeated. What was lacking among those under attack in the London Bridge atrocity was any sense of cohesion or group loyalty.

We have to get in the mindset where everyone out for the night is part of the same team, the team of civilised values and decency. We

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



may not know each other but we must not let each other down.

We outnumber the terrorists and we are not unarmed. A bar stool, traffic cone, beer glass, fire extinguisher or even a ballpoint pen can become lethal weapons in your hands. Even a small LED torch can temporarily blind an attacker. Rage, rage and make as much noise as you can.

If these attacks become commonplace, the time will eventually come when a crowd refuses to be cowed, fights the attackers and disarms them. And at that stage the would-be killers had better pray that the cops arrive pretty damn quick.

SO farewell, Peter Sallis, the Last of the Summer Wine star who has died at a ripe old 96.

Roy Clarke, creator of the long-running comedy, says he always gave Sallis the best lines. But did he? Truthfully, does any script writer know which are the best lines until they are actually spoken?

TAKE that magical moment from Dinnerladies when one upmarket office worker approaches Jean (Anne Reid) at the canteen counter and asks: "What would happen if I were to order a herbal tea?" "Nothing," replies Jean.

On paper, Victoria Wood's script is not even amusing. But delivered by Reid, the single word 'nothing' is one of the funniest moments in sitcoms – the verbal equivalent of Del Boy falling through the hatch in the pub counter.

I RECALL a colleague who, many years ago,

had sight of the script of a Morecambe & Wise Christmas Special before it was broadcast. He said there was not a single funny line in it – until Eric and Ernie got their hands on it. The magic is in the delivery, and Peter Sallis worked the magic wonderfully. (Mind you, Gromit got all the best stunts).

THE owners of Hamerton Zoo in Cambridgeshire have decided not to destroy the tiger that killed its keeper, Rosa King, on May 29.

That seems a wise decision. You can't kill a tiger simply for being a tiger.

The issue here seems to be that, for all her experience with big cats, Rosa regarded the tigers as her friends.

AS the era of self-driving cars approaches, Amanda Blanc, head of the insurance giant Axia UK, predicts that some people born this year may never be required to pass a driving test.

Frankly, it sometimes seems that half of those using the roads never did.

ANYWAY, the Daily Telegraph, reporting Blanc's views, takes the line that premiums 'will likely plunge in line with lower accident rates'.

Does anyone actually believe this? For years the insurance industry has been promising lower premiums but the only way is up.

They are having a laugh, which may explain why most of the celebrities appearing in insurance adverts are comedians.

I BOUGHT a pair of sunglasses. They came on a card with a photo of a muscular, suntanned chap posing with a mountain bike. Clearly, these shades are designed for rugged use and the open road.

On the back of the card the small print declared that although they conformed with the EU regulations, they are 'not suitable for driving and road use'. Purely for posing.

TALKING POINT

Getting old can prove to be a real test of time

I SHOULD have been grateful, reassured maybe, when the invitation came in the post. What I should not have been, I realise, was quite so insulted.

It was vanity really. Another brutal reminder that I am getting closer and closer to the top of the hill and the time was fast approaching that I would be over it.

And the source of this unwarranted indignation? A letter inviting me to undergo breast screening.

'Only middle aged women get routine testing don't they', I protest out loud.

When I actually read the accompanying letter I discover that younger women, those in their 40s, are now also being invited for screening. A better person than I might have appreciated a small piece of much-needed NHS funding coming their way.

It is a good thing, I know it is and could undoubtedly save a life. Ultimately I was relieved having undergone the screening and had the results, as no doubt were my loved ones.

But it seems we are age defined by the tests we face. Benjamin Franklin may have been right about the certainty of death and taxes – but he forgot to mention tests.

Our lives, and most certainly our futures, are defined by tests.

Testing begins from the womb with every expectant mum undergoing a series of nerve-wracking examinations.

As a baby and toddler, there are hearing tests, speaking tests, weight checks and regular trips to the health visitor.

Then there is school – spelling tests, SATs, mocks, GCSEs, A-levels and more – before university or apprenticeships.

After years in education, with regular examinations and all the stress of academia, we would like to think we can put the tests behind us.

But if the world of work doesn't throw a few examinations at us, there are then the health tests.

There are eye tests, cholesterol tests, blood pressure, smears (shudder), then breast screening and prostate examinations (shudder).

These are just some of the routine tests, which increase with age and become more and more invasive.

Fortunately, the older we get, after years of being poked, prodded and scanned, we lose our inhibitions.

No woman can be prudish after the indignity of child birth – however 'beautiful' an experience it may be, private it most certainly is not.

And at least these tests tend to be over fairly quickly and relatively painlessly, unlike the trials of the young. Would any of us like to go back to swotting for A-levels or face taking our driving test again?

So, while these are testing times for us all, maybe we should all simply be happy with every test we pass, however old we are.

DIANE DAVIES

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No surprise to have read Capital

ACCORDING to Peter Rhodes, John McDonnell once said: "I believe there is a lot to learn from reading Kapital." We later learn Rhodes refers to "Das Kapital".

It is normal English practice, when a book is translated, to translate the title too. Every English translation has been entitled Capital. I wonder why right-wingers always try to make it seem terrible and, well, foreign by using the German title.

So McDonnell has read Capital – not surprising for a shadow finance minister of a mildly left-wing party. More than can be

said for Rhodes who doesn't seem even to have seen it on a shelf, let alone read it.

I know John McDonnell from my time living and working in west London. I also happened to be a member at Hayes parish church, where I heard the theologically and liturgically Conservative late rector come as close to a pulpit endorsement of McDonnell as I have ever heard for any politician in any church where I've worshipped. He is an excellent constituency MP.

ALAN T HARRISON
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Let's make use of our great market

THE never-ending problem of empty public houses has returned to plague residents living in Darlaston.

As new homes are being occupied and more built on the former Servis site, now renamed Oak Hill and Centenary Street, local residents have contacted me over the unsafe and neglected pub premises Scott Arms.

This shambolic property must be made safe and redeveloped, and I am making enquiries through Walsall Council and will meet with the owners to request action. We want Darlaston to attract people and business.

The building is an eyesore and is used as an advertisement board. Someone must be making money from the advertisements. They need to invest in our town by upgrading the property.

I will be asking the Enforcement Team to look at the safety and security of the property.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Upset over injured cat

ON Monday, May 15, a feral cat I've been feeding for over six months appeared with a bad face injury.

I phoned the Cats Protection to ask for help and was told they were not insured to come out and catch the cat for me, and neither were the RSPCA.

I explained that if I could have caught him myself I would have taken him for treatment.

I was told to catch him myself. Being nearly 80 I was in tears.

I phoned a local vet and the PDSA who couldn't believe I'd been told such lies and was given the phone number for Kats Cradle, who promptly came out and caught him. The poor cat is being treated for his injury.

If anyone needs help with an injured cat, I can't praise Debbie enough and her very caring cat rescue team.

MS E PARRY
Wednesfield

Gardening or modern art?

I HAVE finally stopped watching Chelsea Flower show.

If I wanted to see modern art I would go to the Tate Gallery.

All we get from the numerous presenters is a load of claptrap about how conceptual gardens are the in thing.

Instead of flowers we get concrete blocks.

Instead of shrubs and grass, we are bombarded with walls of water and you can forget the good old garden gnome.

We are persuaded to purchase, at great expense, a steel edifice only recognisable by the famous garden designer.

No, in future I shall tend my geraniums, roses and lawn in my little piece of heaven called a 'garden'.

IRENE HAYNES
Willenhall



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Hundreds of cyclists pay tribute to ex-rider Joe

HUNDREDS of cyclists turned out in tribute of Willenhall teenager Joseph Guy.

Members from Wolverhampton Wheelers Cycling Club arrived with scores of other riders to pay their respect and raise money for the 16-year-old who died after a collision with a van.



Joseph Guy

John Ireson, chairman of Wolverhampton Wheelers, said he was humbled by the turnout. He added: "It was phenomenal. Three hundred cyclists turned out as well as family, friends, teachers and those that knew him."

"It was led out by his brother, Craig Guy, and his parents and other family were there."

"It goes to show again, what a tight-knit community the cycling world is."

Solidarity

"It showed a community join together, not just cyclists, but people from outside of cycling rallied together and contributed thousands of pounds in total - everyone's contribution, no matter how big or small, went to a good cause. Showing the solidarity, there were minutes' silences held across the country in other cycling events over the weekend."

"A total of £3,500 was raised at the event for his family and a further £5,000 has been raised online, of which proceeds will partly be going to the Air Ambulance Service."

As arrangements are being made for Joseph's funeral, his family have decided he will be led out by a group of cyclists, in a fitting tribute.

Wolverhampton cycling legend



Hundreds of cyclists during a minute's silence in tribute to the teenager



Wolverhampton Wheelers Cycling Club members at the WV Active site

Hugh Porter reserved special praise for Joseph, recalling when he once briefly cycled alongside with him and his father. Hugh added: "I once briefly cycled alongside him at a Carver's event about four years ago."

"He was full of beans and I was a bit rusty at the time and he said to me 'come on, you've been a world champ, you can do it' as encouragement."

"So this is terribly sad, just tragic, he was a lovely guy."

Joseph died after colliding with a van near the A449 Stafford Road, near Wolverhampton, last week.

Bystanders attempted CPR to save him but he was pronounced dead at the scene by ambulance staff.

To support the family, go to justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rideforjoeguy.

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GUARANTEE

Family car destroyed as blaze strikes



The burnt-out car off Glastonbury Crescent, Mossley Picture: @Bloxwichfire

A FAMILY car has been destroyed in a suspected arson attack.

No-one was trapped in the silver hatchback or injured when it was allegedly torched just before 4am last Monday.

West Midlands Fire Service sent one crew from Bloxwich fire station to the scene at the rear of Glastonbury Crescent, Mossley. Firefighters remained at the scene for more

than three hours. Bloxwich fire station took to social media to claim that the fire was the result of an arson attack.

The station tweeted: "Even a quick response to an early hours fire call couldn't prevent family car being totally destroyed by arson."

A fire service spokesman said West Midlands Police were investigating the alleged arson.

School gains music award

A SCHOOL'S dedication to teaching music has been recognised by a prestigious national organisation.

Great Wyrley High School has been awarded a bronze certificate by the Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM), the UK's professional body for musicians, performers, composers and teachers.

Exam results in GCSE music 'continue to flourish', and the ISM said the certificate recognised the 'high uptake and high achievement of pupils' at the

school in Hall Lane. Headteacher Lee Taylor said: "The school is immensely proud of the achievement of the students studying music, and I hope the excellent results achieved over several years within this department continue to flourish."

"The performing arts have been an asset of the school and remain to be so with numerous students wishing to study these subjects."

Deborah Annetts, chief executive of the ISM, congratulated the school, saying: "We are delighted to recognise Great Wyrley High School's achieve-

ment in music and celebrate the commitment to music education shown in the high uptake and high achievement of pupils."

"Music is a valuable subject, it brings value in itself to pupils as well as supporting achievement in other subjects. Music also opens doors and generates educational opportunities for pupils from all backgrounds."

The certificate is awarded by the ISM and its sister charity, the ISM Trust, which are the UK's fastest growing professional body for musicians.

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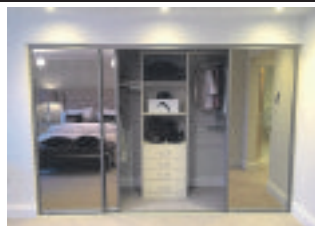


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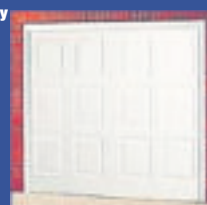
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Head funeral director, Richard

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Jennifer Ashe, inside the offices

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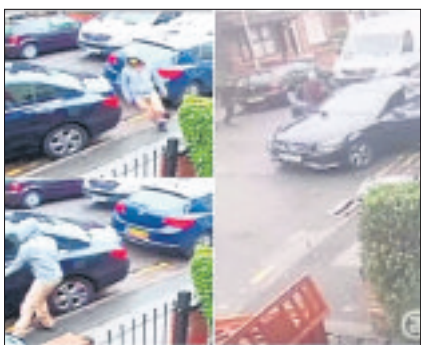
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Thugs in attack captured on CCTV



CCTV images capture moments as the group fled the scene following the stabbing incident

THIS is the moment a teenager was stabbed by thugs who jumped out of a car before fleeing the scene.

CCTV captured the moments violence flared as three men attacked a 17-year-old boy as he walked along in broad daylight.

The teenager was stabbed as he made his way along Tong Street, in the Chuckery area of Walsall.

Footage shows a black Mercedes pull up before the men jump out and assault the teenager as he walked alone.

Moments after the attack they are seen jumping back inside the car before it speeds off.

Stable

The victim suffered a number of stab wounds and was taken to hospital where he underwent emergency surgery.

Police say he is now in a stable condition and has been discharged.

The attack happened at around midday on May 12.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspects, or the vehicle used can call Force CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Quote the crime number 20WS/98454M/17

*View the footage at the website for the Chronicle's sister newspaper, the Express & Star at expressandstar.com

Football game fundraiser

A FUNDRAISING football match and gig takes place in Pelsall next weekend. Burntwood Wood Ladies FC takes on The Jersey 4 & Friends for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The game will be played at the EDC on Pelsall Lane at 1pm on Sunday June 25, followed by a gig from The Jersey 4 at Pelsall Cricket and Sports Club.

Secretary in £10k cheque fraud given prison term

A SECRETARY who tried to steal £10,000 from her company in a cheque con has been jailed.

Amanda Edwards' own lawyer described her crimes as a bad attempt that was never going to work.

The mother-of-four tried to cash a cheque worth £10,000 she had stolen from Claridge Electricals, in Brownhills and Walsall Wood, where she worked part time.

Edwards, aged 57, of Lichfield Road, Walsall, drafted it herself and bank staff noticed that the handwriting was similar on the cheque to the paying-in slip, while the signature later emerged to be false.

Missing

A stop had been placed on the cheque when the firm discovered it was missing, so police were alerted when Edwards tried to cash it in November, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. She pleaded guilty to theft by employee and fraud by misrepresentation and was jailed for six months.

The court heard how Edwards, had previous convictions for similar offences and had been jailed for 12 weeks in July 2015.

Mr Andrew Baker, defending, said: "There is no rational explanation for

Report by Carl Jackson

what she did. Her family circumstances have been troubled from a long way back. She is in a stable relationship, although she cares for her partner, and recently had the trauma of losing her father.

"It is accepted these offences are strikingly similar to ones she committed 10 to 15 years ago. It is accepted this is a high value deception from a small firm, but it was never going to work. This doesn't have a degree of sophistication. In very short terms it was a bad offence."

Recorder John Edwards said: "You have abused the trust of Claridge Electricals, but recognised what you have done by pleading guilty at the first opportunity."

"You have previous convictions for similar offences and have shown yourself to be a woman ingrained in this dishonest activity."

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Days off due to stress at Manor up 100pc

THE number of staff who have taken time off from work at Walsall Manor Hospital due to stress and anxiety has doubled over the last five years.

In 2011/12, 118 out of 4011 staff were signed off for at least one absence day due to anxiety, with the figure jumping to 240 amongst 4333 staff for 2015/16.

The figure increased year on year in between, jumping from 118 to 147 in 2012/13, then 158 the following year.

In 2014/15, the number of staff signed off due to anxiety reached 223 before reaching 240 over the last year.

It was in the aftermath of 2014/15 that the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust was thrown into special measures by the CQC, with whistleblowers telling inspectors of a 'heavy handed' approach from senior management which they said bordered on a bullying culture.

Support

When the trust was told to improve by CQC inspectors in January 2016, it was also said that that approach taken by senior staff had led staff across the organisation to not feel respected.

Louise Ludgrove, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust interim director of human resources, said the trust is offering support to its staff and added not all of the anxiety was work-related.

She said: "Nationally the two highest causes of staff absence in the NHS have been stress/anxiety and musculoskeletal problems for a number of years and these figures are increasing."

"Walsall Healthcare has developed a number of supporting services for staff who are affected by emotional health and wellbeing problems, recognising that our data shows that around 65 per cent of these problems relate to home circumstances, around 20 per cent are work related and 15 per cent are caused by a mixture of both."

Flipped car driver is okay



The aftermath of the incident, in which a driver escaped serious injury after her car overturned. Picture courtesy of @WMFSWalsallBlue

A DRIVER escaped serious injury when her car overturned and landed on its roof.

The collision saw the female driver of the dark grey Vauxhall Corsa overturn - landing upside down in the middle of the road in Walsall.

It happened at around 9.30am last Friday in Birchills Street. The woman escaped serious injury and only suffered a minor injury to her foot. Paramedics from West Midlands Ambulance Service attended the incident but she did need to be taken to hospital. Drivers were

being urged to avoid the area while emergency services dealt with the incident. The road was closed off while the vehicle was recovered.

Firefighters from West Midlands Fire Service attended the collision but confirmed that the driver had managed to get out of the vehicle and did not need to be cut free.

Walsall Blue Watch team at Walsall Fire Station attended the incident. Andy Shaw, crew commander at Walsall Fire Station said: "The collision involved one young lady driver who clipped a parked on the road car and overturned."

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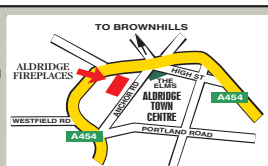


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From special measures to Good in three years

A PRIMARY school in Wolverhampton has seen an 'impressive' turnaround after moving from special measures to a good rating in just three years.

Stow Heath Primary School was visited by inspectors last month who found it to be 'an improving school' where leaders work with 'drive and ambition to the benefit of staff and pupils'.

They said the commitment of senior leaders and staff was resulting in the majority of pupils doing well in a range of subjects with pupils behaving well, enjoying attending school and having a 'good attitude to their learning'.

They found that early years children had a good start in their education and made rapid progress from their starting points while governors 'take an active role, both supporting and challenging staff to be the best they can be'.

Dedication

Headteacher Vivienne Bunce said: "The outcome of our Ofsted inspection is a testament to the drive and ambition of leaders and the hard work and dedication shown by all the staff and governors during our journey from special measures in December 2013 to good today."

The report concluded that the effectiveness of leadership and management, the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, the personal development, behaviour and welfare of pupils, the outcomes for pupils and the early years provision at Stow Heath are all good.

Bill Hague, the City of Wolverhampton Council's head of school planning and resources, said: "The council's School Improvement Team has worked closely with Stow Heath to support their recovery."

What healthy food is a-bout



Appetite for the healthy – WWE superstar Trent Seven, centre, with Danny McCarthy, right, and Patrick O'Brien

A TOP WWE star visited a city gym to support a new healthy food van which has set up shop outside.

The van is the brainchild of Danny McCarthy, of Stafford Road. The 26-year-old had the idea for the van when looking to get some healthy food after his own gym sessions.

"I realised that there was nothing in my immediate location where I could get something healthy that wouldn't waste all the time I'd just spent in the gym," he said. "The last thing you want after spending an hour working out is a cheeseburger or something unhealthy, so I had

the idea for the van." Now, the van has officially been launched outside Exercise4Less Wolverhampton, based at The Grasshopper Building on Craddock Street. The launch was backed by WWE star Trent Seven, of Castlecroft.

Trent, who trains at the gym and is a friend of Danny's, said: "I know the importance of nutrition when I'm training."

Danny has teamed up with his uncle, Patrick O'Brien, of Tottenhall, as part of the project.

The van will be open from 11am to 8pm six days a week for an indefinite period.

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Trolley buses in Queen Square



At Park Lane on the Bushbury route

Trolley buses link to depot

WITH the recent demolition of the Cleveland Road bus depot, which was built as the home of Wolverhampton's trams, it should not be forgotten that for 44 years it was also home to the town's fleet of trolley buses.

When the original tram lines were beginning to reach the end of their useful life after about 20 years of operation, the corporation's transport department took a look at the new trolley buses which had just been introduced in Birmingham.

They decided that they were a more economic proposition than replacing the tram tracks, and the first of six Tilling-Stevens single-decker trolley buses were put into operation on the Wednesfield route on October 29, 1923.

The process of ripping out the surface-contact system tram tracks, and replacing them with overhead cables continued on the Bushbury route, and then throughout the town.

Electricity was supplied by Wolverhampton's own power station in Commercial Road, and by 1931 Wolverhampton had the largest trolley

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

bus system in Great Britain. It also boasted two of the largest trolley bus manufacturers in the world, Sunbeam, and Guy Motors, both building double-deckers and Guy introducing the first ever six wheel trolley bus.

Trolley buses were swift, silent and non-polluting, and the sight of the conductor leaping off his platform at the rear to switch the overhead connections with a long bamboo pole was a common occurrence.

Motor buses were used on the longer out-of-town routes, but by 1960 there were 153 trolley buses and 149 motor-buses.

The transport department decided then not to order any more trolley buses, and to slowly replace them with motor buses.

This process continued until 1967 when the last trolley bus service, the No.58 from Dudley brought an era to a close on March 5.

Electric buses have recently made a re-appearance, but in the shape of hybrids, with batteries providing the power, not a spider's web of overhead wires.

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Creepy, kooky and lots of fun

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

The Addams Family, Birmingham Hippodrome
THEY'RE creepy and they're kooky, mysterious and spooky, and the Addams make a highly enjoyable transition from comic strip, TV and film to the stage.

In Elice, Lipa and Brickman's Broadway comedy musical, the family faces division when teenaged pigtailed nihilist Wednesday falls in love with an all-American boy. She demands 'one normal night' when he and his parents, the Beinekes, visit the Addams' haunted mansion in New York's Central Park.

Even the family's ghostly ancestors are summoned to take part, and they have handily crept out of the crypt to supply the show with a chorus of Thriller-style singers and dancers.

I was surprised the script hadn't been updated with more than one Trump gag, and I don't mean Grandma Addams' flatulence. The clan were invented by New Yorker cartoonist Charles Addams to subvert the cliché of the wholesome American family.

Deadpan

Les Dennis is a revelation in the role of the ghoulish Uncle Fester, bringing poignancy to the moon-struck freak who narrates the show. Floating onto stage in a cloud of dry ice, Samantha Womack is deadpan and dead gorgeous as the macabre matriarch Morticia. She even reveals that 'Tish has a pair of legs in a terrific tango scene.

Cameron Blakely is a comic treat as Gomez Addams. His version of the Hispanic patriarch with a fondness for



The Addams Family, and potential in-laws Picture by Matt Martin

swordplay is more manic than in the film. He also has a fine singing voice.

As Wednesday, the charismatic Carrie Hope Fletcher demonstrates her powerful vocals. Her performance confirms this actress and social media star is well on the way to being one of Britain's brightest West End stars.

Staffordshire-born Charlotte Page gives her operatic vocals full rein as the repressed Alice Beineke, after a shot of Grandma's witchy brew 'rips the lid off her id'. Dickon Gough's lugubrious Lurch delivers some of the

biggest laughs and a musical surprise.

The show loses momentum in the second act and gets schmaltzy with the inevitable life lesson, but by then the audience is sold on the story of this bizarre gothic household.

The songs are delivered with plenty of Broadway chutzpah and the dark humour features lots of snappy one-liners. Addams fans will not be disappointed.

The show returns to the region to run at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from October 17 to 21.

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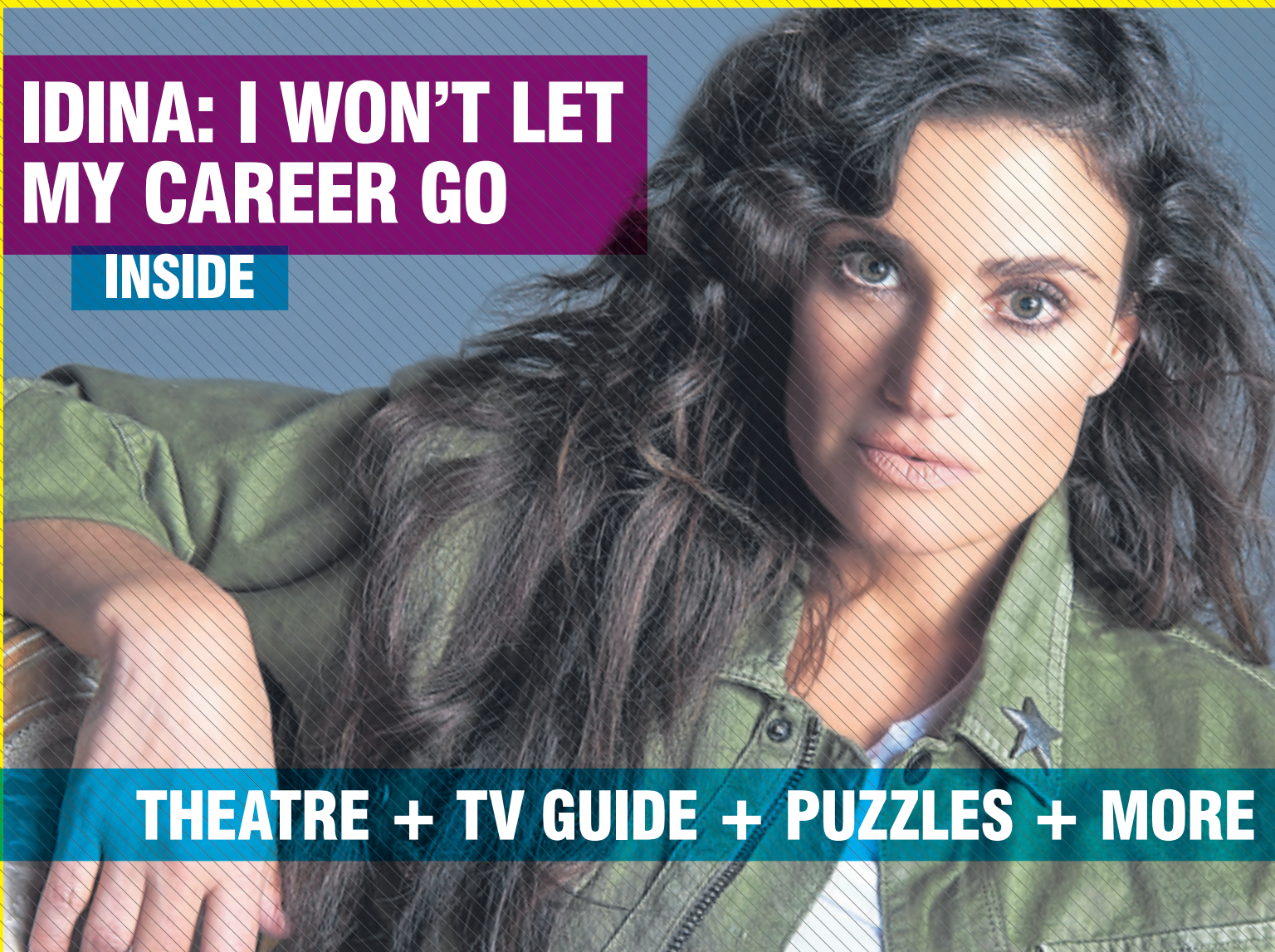
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IDINA: I WON'T LET MY CAREER GO

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Idina's full of glee at going on tour

She's the star of one of the biggest films of all time. And yet the biggest moments of Idina Menzel's life were not what people might have thought.

When the veteran of Broadway musicals performed *Let It Go* at the 2014 Oscars, her public life was at an all time peak – but her private life was in ruins.

"It was such a strange dichotomy. There was this thing of having worked so hard my whole life and finally having this huge song. To be at the Oscars, and to have all the glamour of that..."

"And then to come home and have to go to mediation with my ex, figuring out which days he was visiting our son and where we were going, and the sadness, and the regret. It was, I mean, it was rich. It was rich, it was full."

"I'll always be hard on myself I guess. I want to do the right thing by my son, and that means balancing my work and my quality time with him. I know he needs to grow up seeing a really happy, confident mother, then he'll be drawn to those kinds of women."

Idina has been described as having a 'tear-down-the-house voice and commanding personality...' by *Variety* magazine.

And after releasing her fifth solo studio album 'Idina' last autumn, the Tony Award-winning superstar is returning to the UK as part of her 2017 World Tour. The six-date tour includes a major London show at the Royal Albert Hall on June 15th and also features a headline gig on Monday at Birmingham's Symphony Hall.

Idina has captivated audiences at sell-out concerts around the world with her irresistible charm, wit and unparalleled vocal prowess. Throughout the tour, Idina will lead audiences through a special journey of songs from 'Idina' as well as other classic pop, musical theatre favorites and her own personal catalogue.

The Tony Award-winning Idina Menzel has a diverse career that traverses stage, film, television and music. Idina's voice can be heard as Elsa in Disney's global box office smash 'Frozen', in which she sings the film's Oscar-winning song 'Let It Go' and in the follow up short, 'Frozen Fever'.

After Idina's performance of the multi-platinum song at the 86th annual Academy Awards, she made history as the first person with both a *Billboard* Top 10 hit and a Tony Award for acting. Idina capped 2016 with the release of her fifth original solo studio album 'Idina'.

Idina earned her first Tony nomination as Maureen in the Pulitzer Prize winner 'Rent', and won the award for her performance as Elphaba in 'Wicked'. Other notable roles include Shelby Corcoran on the hit television show 'Glee' as well as starring opposite Susan Sarandon and Amy Adams in Disney's 'Enchanted'. Idina also performed the National Anthem at Super Bowl XLIX in February 2015, which was the most-watched television program in U.S. history.

In addition to cast albums, Idina's prolific recording career includes the solo albums 'Idina', 'I Stand', 'Here' and 'Still I Can't Be Still' as well as her first-ever Christmas

Frozen fever – Idina says her career makes her feel confident



album 'Holiday Wishes' and the live album 'Barefoot: Live At The Symphony'. Idina's most recent Broadway role as 'Elizabeth' in the original production 'If/Then' earned her critical acclaim and her third Tony nomination.

Perhaps not surprisingly, it is her career that gives her confidence.

"My career is what makes me feel confident."

"To feel self-sufficient and like I don't need a man to support me and all that kind of stuff makes me feel good about myself. It's just, you know..."

"Everyone talks about me being a role model for young girls and that's not always the truth in my day-to-day personal life. I'm not constantly practising what I preach."

"I'm a little uncomfortable carrying that banner. I'm not always 'Oh, I feel so great about myself today. I'm a powerful, confident woman, and I'm not going to care what anyone else thinks of me!'"

"I mean it's all rubbish really. I can be a mess. The older I get, I get wiser about some things, and yet I get more fragile and vulnerable about others."

Idina's solo records give her the opportunity to strike out. She finds catharsis in singing out

I kind of thrive and vibe off the connection with the audience

the problems in her life – it's a form of therapy. "I don't know if it's breaking out. It's just me. It's a new beginning. It's an album where I explore a lot of things that have been going on in my life. It's been a turbulent couple of years, with some great stuff and not so great stuff, so a lot of people will feel like they get to know me on a first-name basis."

STRONG

Idina is looking forward to her forthcoming tour. She enjoys engaging with fans and hopes to make strong connections when she's on the road.

"I kind of thrive and vibe off the connection with the audience. Maybe it's because I do eight shows a week in theatre and I thirst for that little thing that changes it up from day to day. I'm not afraid of that. If somebody calls out in a lovingly heckling voice, I'm like, 'OK, what did you say?' I want to talk about it."

"The other night, the band started playing 'Brick House' because I thought somebody said, 'You look like a brick house'. I don't know what they said. It was: 'You look beautiful' or something. But I had my ear monitors in. I said, 'What? I look like a brick house?' And the next thing you know, we're playing Brick House."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see **The Ticket** in your Express & Star every Friday.

All Or Nothing the musical



All Or Nothing for Mod heroes the Small Faces

The Small Faces certainly packed a musical punch, providing a gritty London R&B alternative to the all-conquering Merseybeat of the mid-1960s.

They also helped create and define the music and fashion shaping Mod culture and were responsible for hits including Whatcha Gonna Do About It, Itchycoo Park, Tin Soldier, Lazy Sunday and All Or Nothing.

And it is All Or Nothing which is also the title of a new musical aiming to recapture the era and tell the story of working-class East End lads who become a pop phenomenon while facing the perils of booze, drugs and unscrupulous management.

The touring production is heading to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre for three nights and a Saturday matinee between June 22 and 24.

The show is a labour of love for its writer, co-producer (and one of its stars) Carol Harrison, an actress who had known Small Faces singer, the late Steve Marriott, and wanted to bring his story to the stage. It was an initial run of the show on the south coast, which saw TV actor Chris Simmons come on board. Carol had secured Simon Rouse, DCI Jack Meadows in The Bill, to play tough manager Don Arden. Simon knew Chris from their time at Sun Hill nick in the popular police drama.

Chris, who played CID officer Mickey Webb, saw the script and was offered the lead role of Steve Marriott. "I read it and said to my agent, 'I have got to have this part.' I fell in love with the way it was written, the narration, and I knew about Steve Marriott. It really is a wonderful, fantastic, ballsy, edgy, funny, dark, emotional piece and Carol's writing is very funny."

Country life comes to the city streets



Visitors to Birmingham city centre this weekend can escape to the country without leaving the urban environment.

This year the theme of the Summer in Southside free festival is Escape to the Countryside as a maypole and friendly yokels will be part of the celebration held in the streets in and around Birmingham Hippodrome and Chinatown. Wellies are optional.

There will be a sheepdog herding ducks, a mini farm for petting animals, The Sheep Show featuring the 'Sheep Show Shuffle' and a chance for a chat with Farmer Giles.

There will also be an opportunity

to see members of Birmingham Royal Ballet perform the comic Chicken Dance from La Fille mal gardee; The Fabularium present the tale of woodland scoundrel Reynard the Fox (pictured); acrobatics from Tanzania's The Black Eagles; Asian dance from Jaivant Patel Dance and Lions of Punjab bhangra dancers; and Folk Dance Remixed will perform their quirky Step Hop House.

There will be the creation of a cardboard farmyard by Russian group Cardboardia; tree-based drama Roots by Highly Sprung; puppetry in Imagineer Productions' Operation Migration about one man's mission to save orphaned geese; and a Country Fayre Picnic hosted by Secret City Arts.

Visitors will even be able to take a stroll in the countryside without leaving the Birmingham Hippodrome, when on Sunday the Hippodrome's foyer becomes the focus of family events, including virtual reality. There will be face painting, vintage fairground rides and traditional games.

The focus will be on music on Saturday night outdoors at The Arcadian, featuring Brum's own madcap folk and world music rockers The Destroyers, alongside the brassy sound of the Rajasthan Heritage Band, plus contributions from Lions of Punjab, the Black Eagles and Folk Dance Remixed.

The programme is available at www.birminghamhippodrome.com/calendar/summer-southside-2017-2

Skids returning to mark 40 years

The Robin 2 in Bilston hosts a reunion gig by Scottish punk band The Skids on June 22 as part of the group's 40th anniversary tour. They released punk classic Sweet Suburbia in '78, had a top ten hit with Into The Valley and released four albums before splitting in 1982. Guitarist Stuart Adamson went on to form Big Country but died in 2001. Singer Richard Jobson (pictured) will be back alongside original Skids bassist Bill Simpson and drummer Mike Baillie. Tickets cost £25 advance or £30 door.



xx marks the spot for 24 TV star Kiefer

Guitar rockers Hunter & The Bear, who last month released debut album Paper Heart, are at Birmingham's O2 Institute on Saturday night. The same venue hosts DUB FX tomorrow night (Friday), grunge rock leading light Mark Lanegan with his band on Monday and The Maccabees visit on Thursday (June 22) as part of their farewell tour. The xx play Birmingham's O2 Academy on Wednesday, the same night TV star Kiefer Sutherland performs songs from his country/rock debut Down In A Hole in one of the venue's other rooms. Shropshire psychedelic outfit Grim Fiction headline a four band bill at The Sunflower Lounge at Smallbrook Queensway on Saturday night. Tap into American roots music with Chastity Brown and Otis Gibbs at The Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on Sunday.

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CHOICE

The Loch (ITV, 9pm)
A human heart is discovered on the shores of the Loch, and forensic psychologist Blake Albrighton is brought in to join the investigating team. He quickly forms a disturbing theory about the motive behind the seemingly inexplicable murders, but Chief Inspector Frank Smilie is quick to dismiss his ideas. However, if the new arrival is correct, the once peaceful Highland community could be set to endure far more deaths, as a serial killer prowls the area. Crime drama, starring Laura Fraser, John Sessions and Don Gilet.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 2.15 Money for Nothing. (R) 3.00 Flop TV. (R) 3.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Lifeline. 4.40 Points of View. 4.55 Songs of Praise. 5.30 Eat Well for Less? (R) 6.30 BBC News. 6.50 Regional Programme. 7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and Sean Fletcher present the show from the Hay Festival, where they meet the event's organisers as well as writers and artists. Ellie also goes on a wildlife safari inspired by one of the featured books and joins a team spotting and tracking adders with radio transmitters. Plus, Adam Henson reports on technology for preventing droughts and John Craven presents an update on the Countryfile Photographic Competition. 8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce returns to BBC Caversham, near Reading, where objects brought in to be valued include a communion book that was originally owned by war poet Wilfred Owen, an Aston Martin sports car, and a finely embroidered 17th-century needlework box that creates a surprise when its value is revealed. 9.00 Poldark. Verity anxiously awaits word of her husband, who is sailing for Lisbon, when news reaches Trenwith of a naval battle in which both he and Dwight may have been killed. Ross is reunited with a disreputable old friend of his father, who tells him that Dwight has been captured and is facing execution in France - prompting him to turn down the position of magistrate and sail to the rescue. Drake proposes to Sam that the Methodists can worship at the church, but the decision angers George, who has them driven from the building. 10.00 BBC News. 10.20 Regional Programme. 10.30 Film: Thor: The Dark World. (2013) Superhero adventure sequel, with Chris Hemsworth and Tom Hiddleston. 12.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.15 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 6.50 The Instant Gardener. (R) 7.35 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.35 The Beechgrove Garden. 9.05 Countryfile. (R) 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) 11.30 Great British Menu. (R) 12.00 Great British Menu. (R) 12.30 Great British Menu. (R) 1.00 The Best Dishes Ever. (R) 1.30 Sailing: America's Cup Highlights. 2.30 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Hull FC v Castleford Tigers (Kick-off 3.00pm). 5.00 Rowing World Cup. 6.00 The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway. The concluding episode of the documentary about the construction of the Crossrail train line linking east and west London follows the work of engineers building 10 new stations. A team battles to put together the giant jigsaw that will become a cathedral-sized station at Canary Wharf. The structure is so big it has to be erected underwater in a dock, while the roof comes in a kit of more than 2,500 pieces. As the underground caverns that will become the new stations are carved out, workers uncover gruesome reminders of the city's past. Last in the series. (R) 7.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assesses more money-spinning ideas, including an unusual coffee lid, a range of coconut-based products, and a safety device for hairstyling gadgets. Ewan Davis presents. (R) 8.00 The Life Swap Adventure. A nurse from Nottingham who wants to live somewhere with a sense of community swaps places with a B&B owner from Alaska, who is hoping to escape her small-town life. 9.00 20 Days - Battle for Supremacy. 10.15 Mock the Week. Topical comedy quiz show, hosted by Dara O Briain. (R) 10.45 White Gold. Vincent is nominated for Entrepreneur of the Year in the Essex Business Awards, and Lavender and Vincent discover that Fitzpatrick is a CB radio enthusiast. (R) 11.15 Cricket: ICC Champions Trophy Highlights. Action from the final at The Oval in south London, which provided the setting for the climax of the eighth staging of the one-day tournament. 12.05 Athletics. 1.05 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) 2.05 Holly City. (R) 3.05 This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Sooty. (R) 6.30 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Oddbods. (R) 7.05 Super 4. (R) 7.20 Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) 7.45 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 8.10 Ben 10. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. (R) 10.00 Peston on Sunday. 11.00 Film: Carry On Cruising. (1962) 12.45 ITV News: Weather. 1.00 Tippling Point. (R) 2.00 The Voice Kids. (R) 3.30 Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. Portugal v Mexico (Kick-off 4.00pm). 6.15 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.20 ITV News: Weather. 6.35 Britain As Seen on ITV. A selection of clips from the ITV archives showing talented people from around the nation, including a search for budding singers in Wales in the 1960s. (R) 7.00 Vera. A fisherman's body is found tangled up in a North Sea trawler's net. Vera and her team investigate with the help of the local harbourmaster, and find the dead man's sons pointing the finger at the owner of a fish market, with whom they have a long-running feud. Retracing the dead man's steps, Vera discovers when he drowned and tracks down a waitress who may have been one of the last people to see him alive. However, the case becomes more complicated when a witness runs away and a boat belonging to the dead man's sister-in-law goes up in flames. (R) 9.00 The Loch. A forensic psychologist joins the team following the discovery of a human heart by the lakeside, and develops his own terrifying theories about the reason for the murders. 10.00 ITV News: Weather. 10.20 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. Allegra Stratton presents a guide to the latest issues on social media. (R) 11.20 Lethal Weapon. Riggs and Murtaugh are forced to work with DEA agent Karen Palmer to protect Leo Getz, an ambulance-chasing attorney linked to the cartel. (R) 12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 Motorsport UK. 3.50 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) 6.45 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.35 Frasier. (R) 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Eating Well with Hemsley + Hemsley. 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Eat the Week. 1.55 The Simpsons. (R) 2.00 The Simpsons. (R) 2.30 Film: The Book of Life. (2014) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Diego Luna. 4.30 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) 5.30 Holmes and the Sea. 6.30 Channel 4 News. 7.00 A Very British Hotel. London's Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park host a flamboyant wedding ceremony, VIP guests including Morgan Freeman and Quincy Jones check in, and veteran congerie Francis-Xavier is asked to source a watch worth more than a quarter of a million pounds for one wealthy guest. Born-and-bred Londoner Paul starts work at the hotel, and must learn fast what it takes to be at the top of the five-star game, while Yanya is missing her boyfriend after eight months of working nights. (R) 8.00 Great Canal Journeys: India. The first of two programmes in which Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore India by canal boat. The trip begins in Kerala, a region of palm-fringed lakes, rivers and British-built canals which has had a thriving spice trade for thousands of years. They explore a boat built by a local ruler and make offerings at a temple, while Pru learns a traditional dance. 9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. Offered is punished by Serena Joy, which leaves her shaken and brings back painful memories of her time at the Red Centre with Moira. A complication during the ceremony makes matters worse, and threatens her very survival. 10.15 Merciless. The first episode of a Brazilian crime drama about a serial killer who infiltrates the task force assigned to track him down. The full series is available on All 4. 11.10 Film: End of Watch. (2012) Two Los Angeles cops recording their daily routine for a film project stumble on evidence that could bring down a drug cartel. Crime thriller, with Jake Gyllenhaal. 1.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) 1.55 The Last Leg: Re-united Kingdom. (R) 3.45 KOTV Boxing Weekly. 4.10 Gillette World Sport.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Pip Ahoy! 6.10 Pip Ahoy! (R) 6.20 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 6.25 Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) 6.30 Mr Men. (R) 6.40 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.50 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.55 Wissper. (R) 7.00 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.15 Bob the Builder. (R) 7.25 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.40 Oily the Little White Van. (R) 7.45 Oily the Little White Van. (R) 7.50 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.00 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.05 Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) 8.45 Wissper. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.10 Shimmer and Shine. (R) 9.35 Little Princess. (R) 9.55 Peppa Pig. (R) 10.05 Peppa Pig. (R) 10.10 Peppa Pig. (R) 10.20 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 10.30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 11.05 Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) 11.30 Police Interceptors: Drugs Bust. (R) 12.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.30 Film: Footloose. (1984) Drama, starring Kevin Bacon. 3.35 Film: Dirty Dancing. (2017) Musical remake of the romantic drama, starring Abigail Breslin. 6.10 Film: Monster-in-Law. (2005) An unlucky-in-love woman thinks she has finally landed on her feet when she meets the man of her dreams. However, his meddling mother proves to be an overprotective nightmare who is adamant the would-be bride is Miss Wrong and hatches a plan to drive her away. Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Lopez, Jane Fonda and Michael Vartan. 8.00 That's So 1982. A look back at 1982, featuring news, pop and TV archive clips. It was a year that saw the Falklands War, the birth of Prince William, Channel 4's launch together with the first episode of Countdown, and Steven Spielberg's ET: The Extra-Terrestrial break box office records. It was also the age of new romanticism and electropop, while tracks such as Come on Eileen, Eye of the Tiger and Pass the Dutchie stormed the charts. (R) 8.55 5 News Weekend. 9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-bait. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. 10.00 Most Shocking Reality Moments. (R) 12.55 Access. 1.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Film: Adulthood. (2008)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Secret Knowledge: Nina Simone & Me with Laura Mvula 7.30 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2017 Final 10.00 Doris Day: Virgin Territory 11.00 Buddy Holly: Rave On 12.00 Horizon: Who's Afraid of a Big Black Hole? 1.00 Voyager: To the Final Frontier 2.00 The Magic of Mushrooms 3.00 Battle for the Himalayas: The Fight to Film Everest 4.00 Close
ITV2
12.05 The Voice Kids 1.40 Take Me Out Celebrity Special 2.45 Film: Freaky Friday (2003) 3.45 FYI Daily 5.50 Film: Freaky Friday (2003) 4.50 Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) 5.50 FYI Daily 5.55 Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) 6.55 Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) 7.55 FYI Daily 8.00 Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) 9.00 Love Island 10.00 Love Island: Afternoon 11.00 Family Guy 12.30 American Dad! 1.50 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.15 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.05 Film: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) 1.05 FYI Daily 1.10 Film: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) 2.45 Agatha Christie's Marple 4.50 Foyle's War 6.55 Sunday Night at the Palladium 8.00 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans 9.00 Joanna Lumley's Japan 10.00 Law & Order: UK 12.05 Wire in the Blood 3.30 May the Best House Win 5.10 On the Buses 5.35 ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
2.45 World Rugby U20 Championship Live 5.30 Pawn Stars 6.30 Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. Cameroon v Chile (Kick-off 7.00pm). 9.20 Film: Hard to Kill (1990) 10.20 FYI Daily 10.25 Film: Hard to Kill (1990) 11.25 Film: Out for Justice (1991) 12.25 FYI Daily 12.30 Film: Out for Justice (1991) 1.15 BRDC Formula 3 Championship Highlights 2.15 Counting Cars 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping
E4
11.00 The Goldbergs: Father's Day 1.30 The Big Bang Theory: Father's Day 5.50 Film: Avatar (2009) 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 Film: Kick-Ass 2 (2013) 12.00 Gogglebox 1.00 The Inbetweeners 2.10 8 Out of 10 Cats 2.55 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 3.40 Hollywood
Film4
1.15 The Frogsman (1951) 1.00 Fast Girls (2012) 2.45 Congo (1995) 4.55 Rio 2 (2014) 6.55 Johnny English Reborn (2011) 9.00 Lone Survivor (2013) 11.20 Man on Fire (2004) 2.10 The Beat Beneath My Feet (2015) 4.00 Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Fatal Performance, Channel 5, 3.20pm
An aspiring actress, working as a waitress, is offered a lucrative contract to impersonate the wife of a businessman during a prestigious reception event in their home. However, she soon learns the devious truth behind the proposal and what seemed like a simple job soon turns into a nightmare scenario. Thriller, starring Nicholle Tom and David Palfy. (2013)

TUESDAY
Murder She Baked: A Chocolate Chip Cookie Mystery, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. A small-town Minnesota baker turns amateur sleuth when her delivery driver is shot dead in the alley behind her shop. Mystery, starring Alison Sweeney. (2015)

WEDNESDAY
Hit & Run, Channel 5, 3.15pm
After putting a notorious swindler behind bars, a lawyer finds herself looking over her shoulder when a former cop threatens to blackmail her over the career-ending skeleton in her closet. Thriller, starring Josie Davis, Caroline Cave and Marc Menard. (2015)



Red Heat, Friday, ITV, 10.45pm

THURSDAY
The Girl He Met Online, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman suffers dangerous mood swings and a fierce temper that have ruined all her past relationships. When she meets a new man, she resolves to keep her dark side in check, but as she comes under pressure from her boss and mother, she begins to lose control, with fatal consequences. Thriller, starring Yvonne Zima and Shawn Roberts. (2014)

FRIDAY
Red Heat, ITV, 10.45pm
A Russian detective travels to America to oversee the extradition of a Georgian drug baron responsible for supplying cocaine in Moscow. He is teamed up with a hostile Chicago cop, but when their prisoner kills an officer and escapes, they put aside their mutual mistrust to bring him to justice. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, James Belushi, Peter Boyle, Laurence Fishburne and Ed O’Ross. (1988)

Reid is on the hunt for one final piece of justice

Blood, gore, violence and shattered lives – they’re all just in a day’s work for the coppers working on Ripper Street.

Despite being set in the late-Victorian era, this drama, which returns for its second series this week, bears all the hallmarks of 21st century television thanks to its near-the-knuckle depictions of crimes, brutal plots and fast-paced approach to storytelling.

And although those factors are enough to make any programme compelling, Ripper Street also had a superb cast, led by Matthew Macfadyen, Jerome Flynn and Adam Rothenberg as detectives Edmund Reid and Bennet Drake, and American medical expert Homer Jackson respectively.

All three return here to play their heroic if somewhat flawed characters who are trying to keep Whitechapel’s streets clean – which, it seems, is an impossible job.

The drama itself has had almost as many ups and downs as its central characters. The first run

began airing between Christmas and New Year of 2012, with the second appearing in 2013.

And then it all seemed to go horribly wrong. The BBC decided that, following a slump in the number of viewers, they wouldn’t back a third series, so it seemed that would be end of it. However, following an uproar from fans, Amazon’s streaming service decided to take up the baton and have been behind the remaining seasons, with the Beeb repeating it later.

Unfortunately, Ripper Street really is coming to an end – the fifth series, which begins tonight, has been announced as its last.

So, what can we expect from it?

Well, as those who saw season four will be aware, the three musketeers at the heart of the story now number only two – Flynn’s Drake met his maker thanks to cannibalistic killer Nathaniel Dove (played with obvious glee by Jonas Armstrong).

The action picks up just days later, but doesn’t dwell on our hero’s

tragic demise for long. Instead, he’s given a low-key funeral, complete with sobbing wife Rose and a harmonically perfect police choir, to add a little melancholy atmosphere, in case the scene wasn’t already downbeat enough.

Missing from the mourners are Drake’s best buddies, Reid and Jackson, and Jackson’s wife, Long Susan. They’re not too distraught to attend – they’re now fugitives, hiding out in Whitechapel’s sewers after their plan to kill Susan’s evil father went horribly wrong.

Now, rather than being the hunters, they are the hunted, and Dove’s brother – who happens to be the assistant police commissioner – is the man charged with bringing them to justice. But it won’t be enough for him to make arrests – he wants to shame Reid, enabling him to protect his sociopath sibling in the process; it seems that blood really is thicker than water.

Flynn’s absence from the cast will be missed, but Macfadyen and Rothenberg have the charisma to carry the story without him.



Matthew Macfadyen stars in Ripper Street, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

is served a curve ball when her dad announces that he has other plans for her. Confused and emotional, Nas appeals to Lila for help, but Lila draws a line under their friendship. Missy resolves to show her that there are plenty more fish in the sea, though Nas does not take to Missy’s expedition to a gay bar and leaves alone early. Meanwhile, a guilt-stricken Mandy ends things with Sadiq and throws herself back into her marriage, and Emma discovers that Samir is engaged.

THURSDAY
Kat and Alfie: Redwater
BBC1, 8pm

Things reach a tense conclusion as matters come to a head in the Irish drama. Peter is still missing following his row with Dermott, so Eileen and Roisin set out to find him – although it seems Agnes is worried what long-kept secrets he may give up if he is found. Padraig offers a shoulder to cry on for



Akley Bridge, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

granddaughter Adeen, who has been in emotional turmoil ever since Lance’s death, Bernie finally pieces together the truth about the old man’s demise, and Dermott returns to Redwater – where Kat finally learns her son’s secret. Last in the series.

FRIDAY
Glastonbury 2017
BBC2, 8pm

New series. Jo Whaley, Huw Stephens and Clara Amfo present coverage of the world renowned Glastonbury festival of Contemporary Performing Arts in Pilton, Somerset. The team look towards the weekend ahead and bring news, highlights and performances from the myriad of famous stages on the first day of the festival.

Versailles
BBC2, 9pm
Louis XIV learns the names of the nobles who purchased the poisons, but a last fatal batch reaches the palace, and humiliated Madame de Montespan has a plan for it. Facing a flaming death, brazen Madame Agathe predicts doom for the King and his royal line, while Sophie is torn emotionally and traitorous Thomas realises Philippe is only acting affectionately to feed him misinformation, making their final bedroom tryst a bloody affair.

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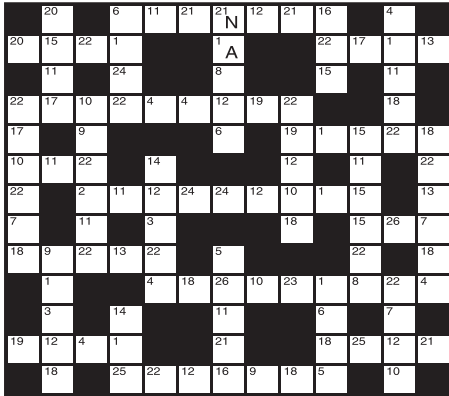
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BRAIN GYM

No.434

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	B	Z	O	I	F	K	Y	L	U	W	Q	C	V
14	D	T	R	M	X	A	J	H	E	P	G	N	S

1	A	14
2	15	
3	16	
4	17	
5	18	
6	19	
7	20	
8	21	N
9	22	
10	23	
11	24	
12	25	
13	26	

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

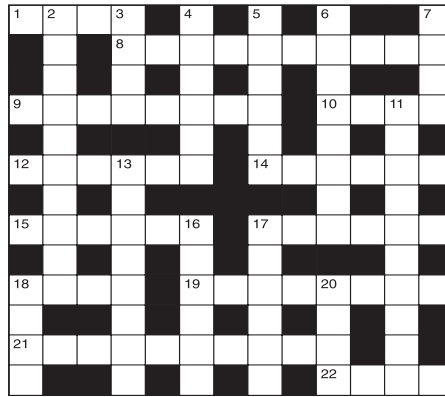
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Prohibit string used for explosion (4)
- Narration by worker to bookkeeper (10)
- Gaoler is converting harem (8)
- The others take a breather (4)
- Confections you and I find in complete groups (6)
- Wince as bird eats (5)
- Eager study in painting (6)
- Convincing little man to join company.... (6)
- ...since it turns to wine (4)
- It enables one to look at a spectacle (8)
- O.C., not C-I-C? No! What a mix-up! (10)
- No centre for the team (4)

Down

- When nurses are off duty? (10)
- A convict gets up for a fete (4)
- Musical balance in practice? (6)
- Defer uprising by dandy (3,3)
- Jumpy beginning? (8)
- In haste tell the printer to let it stand (4)
- This part of the watch isn't new (6-4)
- Look at the bit at the lens end (8)
- Long, narrow cut looks right in fish (6)
- Minister goes round circle (6)
- The bishop needs one for promotion (4)
- Taverns of both hemispheres, perhaps (4)



Quick Clues:

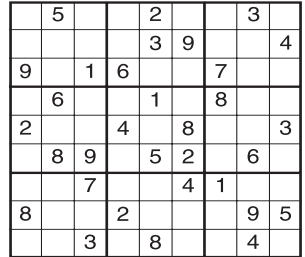
Across

- Burden (4)
- Circuitous (10)
- Shame (8)
- Salver (4)
- Be treacherous (6)
- Reliable (6)
- Bondsman (6)
- Make (6)
- Costly (4)
- Dregs (8)
- Urbanity (10)
- Long tooth (4)

Down

- Efance (10)
- Pull (4)
- Madness (6)
- Coming (6)
- Recondite (8)
- Prop (4)
- Shrewdness (10)
- Curb (8)
- Diminish (6)
- Club (6)
- Gull (4)
- The majority (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	8	6	5	7	9	2	3
9	2	5	8	6	3	7	1
7	3	1	9	4	2	6	8
6	1	3	5	7	8	4	9
2	5	4	3	1	9	8	6
8	9	7	4	2	6	3	5
3	6	2	7	9	1	5	4
5	7	9	2	8	4	1	3
1	4	8	6	3	5	2	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Heave; 8 Look out; 9 Preview; 10 Under; 12 Spirit lamp; 15 Considered; 18 Short; 19 Enraged; 21 Cleared; 22 Swede. Down: 1 Shipwrecked; 2 Babel; 3 Yeti; 4 Flower; 5 Coquette; 6 Cordial; 11 Rope-ladder; 13 Painters; 14 Annoyed; 16 Emends; 17 Agree; 20 Rash.
QUICK - Across: 7 Drama; 8 Plateau; 9 Inverse; 10 Tired; 12 Entrancing; 15 Inequality; 18 Noose; 19 Teacher; 21 Consume; 22 Exact. Down: 1 Admission; 2 Halve; 3 Pair; 4 Appear; 5 Martinet; 6 Refrain; 11 Degenerate; 13 Nauseous; 14 Rebound; 16 Letter; 17 Cheap; 20 Anew.

Quiz

- By which letters do we remember the Nazi 'protective squadron'?
- What is the North American name for an elk?
- What relation was Pliny the Younger to Pliny the Elder?
- Of which calendar was Thermidor the eleventh month?
- What is the Poet Laureate's annual stipend?
- Which motor-racing team were the first winners of the Constructor's Championship in 1958?
- To which family of trees does the avocado belong?
- What is COBOL?
- What do we call the biennial herb Petroselinum crispum?
- Of which country is Dakar the capital?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz:** 1 Hovercraft; 2 Mikhail Gorbachev; 3 Tess of the D'Urbervilles; 4 Lake Constance; 5 Antoine; 6 Birthmark; 7 Portugal; 8 Sitar; 9 Rhinoceros; 10 Anthony Perkins.

Niner: REPLACING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

45182
97321536
135936

gives a venomous creature,
 gives a second venomous creature,
 gives a venom.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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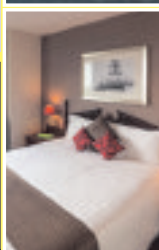
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Please note: Stafford is not available as a pick up on Edinburgh City Break or Glasgow City Break.

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

Generous detached bungalow with additional land

A generous extended detached bungalow with additional land with additional building plot potential, in Coppice Lane, Willenhall, lies in a much sought after area.

Being double fronted, on a generous plot, it is for sale through Webbs at £329,950.

Well placed for local amenities, its accommodation briefly comprises a through hallway, a lounge/diner, a study, re-fitted kitchen, conservatory, three/four bedrooms and a bathroom.

Outside there are two driveways, a carport, garage and gardens.

In more detail, this property has the massive advantage of having an additional plot of land to the rear. The owners have been advised that this has building plot potential, said a spokesman for the selling agents.

In more detail, the two driveways lead to either side of the property and there is a landscaped fore-garden with shrub borders and bedding plants.

Off the through hallway is the lounge/diner which overlooks both the front and rear of the property. It has a feature fireplace with a gas fire and wooden flooring.

There-fitted kitchen has French doors to the conservatory and has a range of wall, base and drawers units, work surface over,

an integrated double oven, hob with an extractor over, dishwasher and ample appliance space.

The conservatory has tiled flooring and French doors to the garden.

Overlooking the front is the master bedroom. Bedroom two has views over the rear. Bedroom three also overlooks the rear and there is an additional study/day room, also positioned to the rear.

The family bathroom includes a Jacuzzi bath, shower cubicle, low level WC, pedestal sink and tiling to bathing areas.

Outside, the rear garden is mainly low maintenance with designated areas.

WILLENHALL £329,950



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Webbs

TEL: 01922 663399

EMAIL: sales@webbsestateagents.co.uk

KEY FEATURES

Extended detached bungalow

Potential building plot as well

Double fronted

3/4 bedrooms

2 driveways, carport & garage



He's sold

Turn to your local estate agent to sell your property and you will be **SOLD ON:**

- Professional accredited local agent service
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If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.



Improved house to rent is ideal for family living

GREAT WYRLEY
£625 PCM <<<

An improved and well equipped two-bedroomed semi-detached house in a popular residential area, 34 Broadmeadow Lane, Great Wyrley is available to rent through Boot & Son at £625 per calendar month.

It has an entrance lobby, an entrance hall with an under-stairs storage cupboard, a lounge/dining room with a feature fire surround having a composite marble hearth and inset an electric fire,

There is also a re-fitted kitchen with a Lamona electric built-in oven, Lamona gas hob and a stainless steel oven hood/extractor. Upstairs are two bedrooms (one with a built-in wardrobe) and a re-fitted bathroom including a bath with an electric shower. There is also a built-on garage and large gardens. These incorporate lawns, a paved patio and flower borders. To the front is a gated paved/gravelled driveway.

Call 01543 505454.



Town house now in need of some works

WALSALL
£100,000

In need of modernisation, this three-bedroomed end town house in Hadley Way on the Beechdale Estate in Walsall is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £100,000.

Its living accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance hall, a lounge, a spacious kitchen/diner, a laundry room and lean-to with a covered side access.

To the first floor are three well proportioned bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property also benefits from double glazing and gas central heating throughout.

Outside there are neatly maintained gardens to both the front and rear as well as a garage.

Contact L&S Prestige Estates on 01902 606 595 or visit www.prestige-estatesuk.com

Property Auction

AUCTION

Monday 3rd July 2017

7pm Prompt at

THE PREMIER SUITE, BAR SPORT

1st Floor The Danilo, High Green, Cannock

Address	Wednesday 11th, 21st & 28th June	Saturday 10th, 17th, 24th June & 1st July
226 Cannock Road, Wednesfield	10.00am	10.00am
79 Wolverhampton Road, Cannock	10.45am	10.45am
159 Stafford Road, Cannock	11.15am	11.15am
279 Stafford Road, Cannock	11.45am	11.45am
The Limes, 193 Pye Green Road, Cannock	12.15pm	12.15pm
Land to Rear of 174/176 Belt Road, Hednesford	12.45pm	12.45pm
★ 34 Market Street, Hednesford Flat Only—Access at Rear	1.15pm	1.15pm
12 Warren Close, Rawnsley	1.45pm	1.45pm
18 Dawson Street, Blakenhall Heath, Walsall	By Appointment Through The Agents	
Land 7 Hill Street, Hednesford	By attending on site with Catalogue to hand	
Land Adj. Ivy Gardens, Brownhills Road, Norton Canes		
Land Between 6 & 14 Foundry Lane, Pelsall		

Tel: 01543 505454
www.bootandson.co.uk

LOT 1

THE LIMES, 193 PYE GREEN ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 5SB
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Semi detached house
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Two reception rooms
- ◆ In need of refurbishment
- ◆ Part double glazed
- ◆ Gas fired central heating
- ◆ EPC rating F (36)

GUIDE PRICE £80,000 - £90,000

LOT 2

279 STAFFORD ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 4AT
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Semi detached house
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Two reception rooms
- ◆ In need of refurbishment
- ◆ Gas fired central heating
- ◆ Part double glazed
- ◆ EPC rating E (39)

GUIDE PRICE £70,000+

LOT 3

226 CANNOCK ROAD, WEDNESFIELD, WV10 8PW
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Good sized semi detached house
- ◆ In popular location
- ◆ Two reception rooms
- ◆ Kitchen
- ◆ Conservatory
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Bathroom
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ Gas fired central heating
- ◆ EPC rating E (42)

GUIDE PRICE £90,000+

LOT 4

LAND ADJ IVY GARDENS, BROWNHILLS ROAD, NORTON CANES, WS11 9SE
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Individual building plot
- ◆ Ripe for immediate development
- ◆ Planning permission for development of detached two bedroom bungalow

GUIDE PRICE £35,000-£40,000

LOT 5

LAND BETWEEN 6 & 14 FOUNDRY LANE, PELSALL, WS3 4GH
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Individual building plot
- ◆ With planning permission for 2 bedroomed detached house
- ◆ Detached two bedroomed bungalow
- ◆ Ripe for immediate development

GUIDE PRICE £50,000+

LOT 6

159 STAFFORD ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 4AL
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Good size inner terraced house
- ◆ Needing some refurbishment
- ◆ Three bedrooms
- ◆ Two reception rooms
- ◆ Predominantly double glazed
- ◆ Gas fired central heating
- ◆ EPC rating D (56)

GUIDE PRICE £85,000+

LOT 7

12 WARREN CLOSE, RAWNSLEY, CANNOCK, WS12 0JY
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Spacious three bedroomed semi detached house
- ◆ Ideal buy to let
- ◆ In need of some improvement
- ◆ Partial gas fired central heating
- ◆ Replacement PVC window frames
- ◆ EPC rating tbc

GUIDE PRICE £85,000+

LOT 8

34 MARKET STREET, HEDNESFORD, WS12 1AF
FREEHOLD COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT

- ◆ Prominently located on busy town centre thoroughfare
- ◆ Relatively new lease just completed
- ◆ Longstanding commercial tenant
- ◆ Ground floor - lock up shop
- ◆ First floor - Self contained flat
- ◆ Currently Producing £7,280 P.A. but Capable of £11,480 P.A. when fully let

GUIDE PRICE £90,000+

LOT 8A

18 DAWSON STREET, BLAKENHALL HEATH, WALSALL, WS3 1LN
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Semi detached house
- ◆ Two bedrooms
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ Fully double glazed
- ◆ EPC rating D (66)

GUIDE PRICE £60,000-£70,000

LOT 9

LAND TO REAR OF 174/176 BELT ROAD, HEDNESFORD, WS12 4JA
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Freehold residential building land
- ◆ With resolution to grant outline planning permission
- ◆ For redevelopment with 6No. two bedroomed flats

GUIDE PRICE £125,000 - £150,000

LOT 10

79 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 1AP
LEASEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Two storey maisonette in popular residential development
- ◆ Two bedrooms
- ◆ Electric heating
- ◆ Double glazing
- ◆ In need of improvement
- ◆ Close to facilities at the town centre
- ◆ EPC rating tbc

GUIDE PRICE £65,000+

LOT 11

LAND 7 HILL STREET, HEDNESFORD, WS12 1DJ
FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- ◆ Individual building plot
- ◆ With planning permission
- ◆ Detached four bedroomed house
- ◆ Ripe for immediate development

GUIDE PRICE £100,000+

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3 Bedroom cottage. NO CHAIN. Must be viewed.



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3 bedroom semi-detached with garage.



Trinity Road, Short Heath, Willenhall, **£145,000**
WV12 5QL. 3 bedroom semi-detached with garage, downstairs toilet and shower room. NO CHAIN. Must be viewed.

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REDUCED

BLOXWICH
PENDEREL STREET



- Extended Semi
- Hallway
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen

- Utility Room, WC
- 4 Bedrooms
- Driveway
- Garage

\$130,000 Offers Over

NEW

PELSALL
CHAPEL STREET



- Traditional Terraced
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchenette
- 2 Bedrooms

- Bathroom
- Garden
- On Street Parking
- Sought After Village Location
- NO CHAIN

\$125,000

REDUCED

PELSALL
WHITE HOLLIES



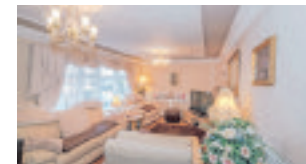
- Through Hallway,
- Guest WC, Study/Playroom,
- Lounge Diner
- Three Bedrooms,

- Family Bathroom
- En-Suite to Master.
- Private Driveway
- Landscaped Gardens.

Offers Over \$209,950

REDUCED

BLOXWICH
LYDFORD ROAD



- Through Hallway,
- Lounge Diner,
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen,
- Sitting Room.

- Further Entrance Hallway,
- Two Double Extended Bedrooms and
- Bathroom.
- Block Paved Driveway.

\$277,950

REDUCED

PELSALL
OLD TOWN LANE



- Lounge Diner,
- Kitchen,
- Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms.
- Landscaped Gardens
- Early viewing essential !!

OFFERS OVER \$120,000

NEW

BLOXWICH
STATION PLACE



- Extended Family Home
- Hallway, Guest W.C.
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Generous Dining Room
- Utility Room
- Three Bedrooms

\$134,950

NEW

WILLENHALL
PEACH CLOSE



- Ground Floor
- Through Hallway
- Lounge/diner
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Landscaped Gardens
- Viewing Essential

\$90,000 Offers Over



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wolverhampton@skitts.net 01902 788188

lettings@skitts.net 0121 520 2255

**Banks Street,
The Manor,
Willenhall WV13**

£355,000

	3		6
	1	EPC	G



**Green Meadow
Road, Coppice
Farm, WV12**

£230,000

	2		3
	1	EPC	D



**Pooles Lane,
Short Heath,
WV12**

£205,000

	2		3
	1	EPC	D



**Wayside
Gardens,
Willenhall, WV12**

£175,000

	2		3
	1	EPC	D



**Asheridge Close,
Wednesfield,
WV11**

£170,000

	1		3
	2	EPC	B



**Conway
Crescent,
Willenhall, WV12**

£169,950

	2		3
	1	EPC	D



**Stubbington
Close, Willenhall,
WV13**

£160,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	D



**Bentley Road
North, Bentley,
WS2**

£159,950

	1		3
	1	EPC	TBC



**Thorne Road,
Willenhall, WV13**

£140,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	C



**Charlecote Rise,
Hadley Heath,
WV13**

£135,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	D



**Croxley Gardens,
Hadley Heath,
WV13**

£135,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	D



**Essington Way,
Wolverhampton,
WV1**

£125,000

	1		3
	1	EPC	C



**Clarkes Lane,
Willenhall, WV13**

£85,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	C



**Victoria Street,
Willenhall, WV13**

£85,000

	2		2
	1	EPC	TBC



**Essington Way,
Wolverhampton,
WV1**

£85,000

	1		2
	1	EPC	TBC





Walsall
01922 711444
7 Queens Parade, Walsall, WS3 2EX



Lichfield Road, Willenhall

- Substantial Detached Home
- Six Bedrooms
- Three Bathrooms
- Four Reception Rooms
- 27' Kitchen/Diner
- Off Road Parking for Several Cars
- Detached Garage
- EPC - D

£380,000

Birmingham Road, Walsall

- Three Storey Semi-Detached
- Five Generous Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Conservatory
- Original Features Throughout
- Double Garage to the rear
- Off Road Parking to the Front
- EPC - E

£350,000

Victoria Terrace, Walsall

- Victorian Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Lounge with Open Fireplace
- Superb Views
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EPC - E

£275,000

Downfield Close, Turnberry Estate

- Immaculately Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- High Standard Kitchen and Bathroom
- Refitted En-Suite to the Master
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- Beautifully Presented Rear Garden
- EPC - D

£270,000

Colliery Drive, Bloxwich

- Impressive Detached Family Home
- High Specification Fixtures & Fittings
- Gloss Fitted Kitchen with LED Lighting
- Ground Floor WC
- Conservatory
- Lounge with Curved Log Burner
- Three Generous Bedrooms
- EPC - D

£230,000

Astbury Close, Turnberry Estate

- Beautifully Presented Detached Home
- Immaculate Lounge with Stone Fireplace
- Superb Open Plan Kitchen/Conservatory
- En-Suite to Master
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- Extension Potential (stpp)
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- EPC - TBC

£230,000

NEW

Long Lane, Great Wyrley

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Extended Lounge & Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Potential for Further Extension
- Superb Views Across Open Fields
- Block Paved Driveway
- Downstairs WC
- Garage
- No Upward Chain
- EPC - D

£225,000

Waters Keep, Leamore

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C
- Rear French Doors
- Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

From £136,500

NEW

Windrush Close, Pelsall

- Three Bedrooms
- Semi Detached
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C
- Garage
- Parking Space
- Large Rear Garden
- Viewing Essential
- Sought After Location
- EPC - C

150,000

Harrison Street, Bloxwich

- Immaculately Presented Period Property
- Refurbished Throughout
- Refitted Kitchen
- Luxurious Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Viewing Essential
- No chain
- EPC - D

£125,000

No Chain

Elmsdale Court, Walsall

- Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Separate Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Electric Heating
- Allocated Car Port
- EPC - E

£95,000

No Chain

Lister Road, Beechdale

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Popular Area of Beechdale
- No Upward Chain
- Ideal First Purchase
- Suitable Buy-To-Let
- EPC - C

O.I.E.O £105,000

No Chain

Manorhouse Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Communal Grounds
- Allocated Parking
- EPC - B

£85,000

No Chain

Taverners Close, Willenhall

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Maisonette
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- No Chain
- EPC - C

O.I.E.O £80,000

No Chain

Church Place, Blakenall Heath

- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Kitchen & Living Area
- White Bathroom Suite
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking
- Secure Intercom Entrance
- EPC - B

£80,000

No Chain

Little Station Street, Walsall

- One Bedroom Apartment
- Town Centre Location
- Train Station Within Walking Distance
- Decorated Communal Areas
- Lounge
- EPC - E
- Bathroom with Shower
- EPC - E

O.I.E.O £60,000

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6TH JULY 2017

 Aston Villa Football Ground
 Starting at 11:00am

AUCTION
OVER 120 LOTS

 To include properties on behalf of:
 Plus properties on behalf of Receivers/Administrators

60 Daisy Street, Bilston
 3 Bed Semi-Detached House
 Guide: £94,000 - £98,000

15 Wheatley St., West Bromwich
 3 Bed Mid-Terraced House
 Guide: £49,000 plus

51 Leamore Lane, Walsall
 3 Bed Mid Terraced House
 Guide: £19,000 - £24,000

99 Spring Road, Ettingshall
 3 Bed Semi-Detached House
 Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

89 Aston Road, Willenhall
 3 Bed Semi-Detached House
 Guide: £19,000 - £24,000

319 Dudley Road, Wolverhampton
 2 Bed End-Terraced House
 Guide: £38,000 - £43,000

49 Thetford Road, Great Barr
 3 Bed Semi-Detached House
 Guide: £90,000 plus

2 Barnard Road, Sutton Coldfield
 2 Bed Detached Bungalow
 Guide: £250,000 - £275,000

58 Marsh Lane, West Bromwich
 3 Bed Semi-Detached House
 Guide: £50,000 plus

156 Brantley Road, Witton
 3 Bed Investment Property
 Current Gross Income: £7,200 pa.
 Guide: £30,000 plus

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K. Stuart Swash

AUCTION - 20TH JUNE 2017

9 HOPSTONE GARDENS, PENN.

Quiet cul de sac location. Extended and spacious accommodation, CH., DG., Hall, Cloakroom, 24ft. Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Pantry, fitted Cloaks, Utility, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, lovely Rear Garden - open outlook beyond. EPC: D.57

Guide: £230,000 - £235,000

 VIEWING:
 FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
 16th & 17th JUNE @ 11.45 a.m.

36C RICHES STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

Spacious, Two Reception, Three Bed Semi with Two Bedroomed Garden Annex and large Outbuilding, double gated entrance driveway. EPC: D65

Guide: £115,000 - £120,000

 VIEWING:
 FRIDAY & SATURDAY
 16th & 17th JUNE @ 10.30 a.m.

63 PARK ROAD EAST, WOLVERHAMPTON

 Ripe for refurbishment. Excellent corner position. Outlook to West Park
 Two Reception, Three Beds, Garage Space.
 EPC: G1

Guide: £69,000 - £74,000

 VIEWING:
 FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
 16th & 17th JUNE @ 9.30 a.m.

13 PEACOCK AVENUE, WEDNESFIELD

 Well located for schooling and amenities. Spacious Semi, Double Glazing
 Porch, Two Reception, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, attractive Gardens. EPC: E.52

Guide: £85,000 - £95,000

 VIEWING:
 FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
 16th & 17th JUNE @ 11.30 a.m.

9 & 9A CROSS STREET, BRIDGTOWN, CANNOCK

 Excellent conversion into Two 2-Bed Flats
 Smart Kitchens & Bathrooms, Gas CH, Yard area and Parking. EPC: C.70 + D.68

Guide: £128,000 - £135,000

 VIEWING:
 FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
 16th & 17th JUNE @ 9.30 a.m.

**PADDOCK OF FREEHOLD LAND
 R/O Nos. 94 & 95 COVEN ROAD, BREWOOD**

 Well located enclosed Paddock est. 0.5 acre approx. with Planning Permission for erection of Stable Block.
 Mains Services available.

Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

 VIEWING:
 FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
 16th & 17th JUNE @ 10.45 a.m.

21 CANTERBURY ROAD, PENN

Within an established residential area. Entrance drive, Porch, Hall, Two Reception, Kitchen, Pantry, g/f WC, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, WC, Garage, Rear Terrace, Garden approx. 120ft in depth. EPC: D.56

Guide: £165,000 - £175,000

 VIEWING:
 FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
 16th & 17th JUNE 12.45 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

Viewing of all Lots at own risk. Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

L & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



33

The Chronicle Thursday, June 15, 2017

UPPER PENN



OIEO £650,000

GREAT HALL GROVE, W'TON

Five Bedroom Executive Detached, Lounge & Separate Study, Modern Fitted Kitchen/ Diner, Conservatory, Guest W.C, Family Bathroom, En-Suite to both Master & Bedroom 2, Office/ Den, Double Garage & Off Road Parking

COPPICE FARM



£270,000

HEBDEN GROVE, WILLENHALL

Four/Five Bed Detached, Lounge/ Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Separate Utility Room, Play Room/ Gym, Conservatory, Family Bathroom, En-Suite Shower To Master, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Off Road Parking & Garage

SHORT HEATH



OIEO £250,000

MILL LANE, WILLENHALL

Impressive Three Bed Detached Bungalow, 25ft Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Family Bathroom, En-Suite Shower To Master, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Extensive Off Road Parking, Rear Garden

BRACKENDALE



£235,000

DURSLEY CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Four/Five Bedroom Detached, 23ft x 15ft Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/ Diner, Utility Room, Guest W.C, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Driveway & Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden

BENTLEY



OIEO £189,995

SILVERSTONE CLOSE, WALSALL

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£175,000

RIVERBANK RD, WILLENHALL

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WILLENHALL



OIRO £160,000

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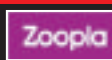


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MOTORING

Skoda updates flagship

By Sharon Walters

From now the Škoda Superb and Škoda Superb Estate will be rolled out with numerous innovations. These includes automatic emergency call as additional security – and comfort features, and extended connectivity solutions.

● Care Connect with automatic emergency call

With the new model year, the Superb saloon and estate come with Care Connect as standard from Ambition trim upwards – regardless of the choice of infotainment system.

The most important feature of the Care Connect is the automatic emergency call, which is activated following an accident if a restraint system has been triggered. The vehicle establishes a voice and data connection to an emergency call centre and transmits all the necessary data. The emergency call can also be initiated manually via a button in the roof module.

In addition, remote access to the vehicle is now possible via the Škoda Connect App. The smartphone can inform the driver, among other things, whether the windows and doors are closed or the lights are off. The parking position function shows the location of the vehicle, the “Honk & Flash” function makes it easier to find the car by activating the horn and hazard lights.

● Infotainment: 9.2” screen in the glass design and SmartLink+

Numerous functions can now

be operated with optimised infotainment systems for the Superb. The display of the Columbus navigation system has grown from 8 to 9.2 inches and the system Swing from 5 to 6.5 inches. In addition, the glass design enhances the high-resolution displays.

With the SmartLink+ system on board, the Superb now offers additional possibilities for networking between the vehicle and smartphone. SmartLink+ brings navigation, infotainment and communication apps from the mobile phone into the car and also provides vehicle data for the evaluation on the smartphone.

● Driver assistance systems: Park Distance Control

The Superb helps to avoid dents while parking, which is ensured by the Park Distance Control system with extended function Manoeuvre Assist – this now also detects obstacles in front of the vehicle. The system not only warns the driver with optical and acoustic signals but also brakes the vehicle automatically if necessary.

● Driver’s seat with a massage function, improved communication climate and noise level

As a comfortable travelling vehicle for the whole family, the character of the car has been further strengthened with new equipment features. The optional massage function for the driver’s seat, which is available with the electrically adjustable variant, including ventilation and memory function, ensures increased



The new Infotainment 9.22” screen with SmartLink+

comfort on long distances. Also the communication among occupants is improved with Digital Voice Enhancement, which transmits the driver’s and front passenger’s voice to the passengers in the rear via a microphone in the cockpit. Additional improvements also contribute to lower noise levels – the front side windows are newly available with an acoustic film between the two glass surfaces.

● Design

The new design of the 19

-inch light-alloy Acamar rims underscores the elegant appearance of the top model. In addition, the revised Superb can be ordered later this year in a new elegant car body metallic colour Velvet Red.

Chrome strips on side buffers and doors and a black interior ceiling will be available for the L&K equipment version making the refined top version of Škoda’s flagship even more impressive.

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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA Fabia range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 46.3 (6.1) to 65.7 (4.3); Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2) to 80.7 (3.5); Combined 58.9 (4.8) to 74.3 (3.8). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA Fabia range are 110 to 100 g/km. Standard EU test figures are for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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Walsall Council, Planning, Engineering and Transportation
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)
The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.
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Peter Holmes MBE, chairman of the Advisory Council with Hall of Fame member Roger Ellis, deputy Mayoress Elaine Hadley-Howells and deputy Mayor Phil Page



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Denise Frankham, Graham Hodson and Paul Loyd from Bilston Town



Gary Haynes, Helen Lower, Richard Attwood and Greg Silvester

Shining a light on night of sporting achievement

WOLVERHAMPTON'S sporting achievements shone bright on a night of celebration in the city.

The Diamond Banqueting Suite in Skinner Street was the venue as Wolverhampton Sports Advisory Council marked its 50th anniversary. Founded in 1967, the body has supported and promoted the city's sportsmen, women and clubs.

As well as introducing the first sports centres in the city, a Hall of Fame has been created to honour sporting greats who have competed on, and conquered, the world stage.

An annual awards night also honours the grassroots heroes who put countless hours in helping coach and inspire the stars of tomorrow.

More than 240 people from the world of karate to football were there to share in the celebration along with the deputy mayor Phil Page and deputy mayor Elaine Hadley-Howells.

Hall of Fame members Alan Meddings (athletics), Richard Attwood (motor racing), Roger Ellis (cycle speedway), Jerome Atkinson (karate) and Helen Lower (table tennis) were in attendance along with Special Olympians Greg Silvester and Gary Haynes.

In addition, six of the city's centenary clubs were represented.

Stirring

Sports Advisory vice-chairman Tim Lorimer kicked off an evening that included speeches from Page, karate stalwart Josh Johnson and Councillor Mac Singh, and a demonstration from young members of Johnson's karate club.

Chairman Peter Holmes MBE then took centre stage. The 85-year-old is a founder member of the Sports Advisory Council and has worked tirelessly over the years to recognise the achievements of the city's sporting stars and just as importantly the work of the people at grassroots level and behind the scenes.

His passion and pride for the city's sports people was evident during a stirring speech and he declared the evening a success.

"I was overwhelmed," he said. "The event was organised very well and I think everybody that was there seemed to enjoy it. It was

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"Sportsmen and women have a knack. No matter what sport you are you can always find something to talk about."

It was nice to see some of the Hall of Fame members there and we also had a nice representation of the centenary clubs.

"I must say, to have them all under one roof was a unique situation. It was everything that I hoped for, to bring sport under one roof.

"Sportsmen and women have a knack. No matter what sport you are you can always find something to talk about. It's a language all on its own.

"And I hope everybody went home saying 'I enjoyed that and let's look forward to the next 50 years'.

Holmes is proud to have seen the Sports Advisory grow from strength to strength since its formation in 1967.

"The town clerk at that time was a man named Ron Meddings," said Holmes.

"He said he looked upon the new group as a 'ginger group' - a group to live up to the council's attitude to sport. It was an expression I had never heard before.

"In those days the council's attitude to sport was extremely limited," he said.

"In the early days we had a famous councillor, Ted Lane, and we also had a member whose name was Reg Cooke.

"They were the influence behind the recognition of individuals in clubs who had done sterling work behind the scenes.

"It's amazing the number of people that have been recognised over the years for the work behind the scenes. Fifty years is quite an achievement and I am proud to have seen it grow."

Holmes was the driving force behind the city's Hall of Fame, which was introduced in 1999.

"Peter Bilson, who was chair of committee formed to celebrate the Millennium asked me, 'what is sport going to contribute?' Initially, I said let's recognise the clubs that have celebrated their centenary. In those days there were 10.

"Then I thought, let's go one better and have a look at a Hall of Fame. The first three people inducted were Charlie Stowe, Jack Taylor and Hugh Porter.

"Now we try to look to induct two, three or four people annually."

And he is only too eager to share and highlight the city's sporting success.

He added: "It's nights such as these where we realise how lucky we are in Wolverhampton. We realise our contribution to the life of the city and the name of the city."

"That has been my aim, to make people realise what Wolverhampton has. We don't appreciate what we have in the city and this never ceases to amaze me.

"I was talking to guests on my table and they were quite amazed to realise what Wolverhampton had produced."

Centenary clubs: 1835 Wolverhampton Cricket Club, 1875 Wolverhampton Rugby Club, 1876 Wolverhampton Swimming Club, 1877 Wolverhampton Wanderers FC, 1885 Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, 1891 Wolverhampton Wheelers Cycling Club, 1892 South Staffordshire Golf Club, 1893 Penn Common Golf, 1895 Bilston Lawn Tennis, Bilston Town FC, 1896 Wolverhampton Ladies Hockey Club, 1898 Wolverhampton Casuals Football Club, 1903 Wolverhampton Hockey Club, 1904 Ettingshall Holy Trinity Football Club, 1908 Penn Cricket Club, Penn Golf Club, 1910 Wolverhampton Referees Association, 1913 Oxley Park Golf Club.

Hall of Fame members: Charles Stowe (Golf), Hugh Porter MBE (Cycling), Jack Taylor CBE (Football), Billy Wright CBE (Football), Hayley Price (Gymnastics), Elvis Gordon (Judo), Rachel Heyhoe-Flint MBE (Cricket), Verona Elder MBE (Athletics), Densign White (Judo), Lorna Mainwaring (Gymnastics), Rev. Kenneth Hunt (Football), Greg Silvester (Gymnastics), Dennis Stewart (Judo), Nick Jeavons (Rugby), Tony Wilson (Boxing), Bill Slater CBE (Football), Kathy Cook (Athletics), Gary Cook (Athletics), Dharan Pal (Weight Lifting), Don Evans (Motor Cycling), Ron Flowers (Football), Bob Thom (Cycling), Rosemary Stirling (Athletics), Frank Chilton (Roller Hockey), Stan Cullis (Football), John Rhodes (Motor Racing), Jerome Atkinson (Karate), John Spittle (Rifle Shooting), Syd Harrington (Weight Lifting), John Coyle (Boxing), Alan Anthony Meddings (Athletics), Tessa Sanderson CBE (Athletics), Sonia (Lannaman) Garnston MBE (Athletics), Archibald Edward Wones Compton (Golf), Percy Stallard (Cycling), Maureen (Tranter) Lewington (Athletics), Gary Haynes (Gymnastics), Rev. John Thomeycroft Hartley (Lawn Tennis), Susan Partridge-Chatter (Lawn Tennis), Kevin Darley (Horse Racing), Anna Bullock (Squash), Roger Ellis (Cycle Speedway), Mark Holton (Athletics), Frank Spittle (Rifle Shooting), Richard Attwood (Motor Racing), Raymond Jones (Cycling), Denise Lewis (Athletics), Bert Williams MBE (Football), Craig Fallon (Judo), Diane Bailey MBE (Golf), Fiona Elliott (Table Tennis), Liz Brown (Squash), Helen Lower (Table Tennis), Michael K. Ayre (Swimming), Roy Addison (Boxing), Dr. Lisa Martine Kehrer (Race Walking), Vikram Solanki (Cricket).

Superbike ace gears up for sports bar date

SUPERBIKE superstar John McGuinness will make a first-ever appearance at a Wolverhampton sports bar in November. McGuinness, a winner of 23 Isle of Man TT titles, will meet fans and answer questions on Thursday November 23 at Cleveland Arms, Stow Heath Lane.

He follows other sporting greats to have appeared at the venue, such as Bruce Grobbelaar and Steve Bull, Snooker's John Parrott, darts legends Phil Taylor and Wayne Mardle and speedway world champions Tai Woffinden, Nicki Pedersen, Ole Olsen and Hans Nielsen at the venue.

Organisers are thrilled to land the Morecambe racer, who is currently in the early stages of recovery after suffering a broken leg, rib and back injuries in practice for the recent NW200, which ruled him out of this year's TT.

Cleveland Arms spokesman Will Adamson said: "We are proud and honoured to have John coming here, it's a major feather in the cap not just for us but for the city of Wolverhampton."

Tickets are just £10 for standard seats and standing, but a £30 VIP package is available (restricted to 40) which includes 6pm entry, priority seating, a picture with John printed and signed on the night and a buffet. Call 01902 451021 or buy online at clevelandarms.com via paypal.

Knockout night with boxing pundit Bunce

THE face of boxing Steve Bunce will bring tales from the ring to the ECC Sports and Social Club in Wolverhampton next month.

"Buncey" will take the stage to give a speech for guests on Wednesday July 19 at the club in Shovel Road, Bushbury.

Popular pundit Bunce is a regular presence with broadcasters BoxNation, BT Sport and the BBC, along with magazine Boxing Monthly and a host of national newspapers.

The 54-year-old is London born and bred but now lives in Lichfield, commuting back to the capital for many of his media commitments.

He has more than 30 years of experience and has covered the sport for five separate Olympic Games and more than 50 shows in Las Vegas.

Bunce was once dubbed by flamboyant former world champion Chris Eubank Snr as "a legend in boxing" and has written a book, called 'the Fixer', about the sport.

He offers a respected opinion on fighting matters past and present and will front questions from the audience. A full night of entertainment is for £20 a ticket, which includes a three-course meal and a professional photograph alongside him. For more information, call 01902 424 455.

Darts players Devon sent for friendly tie

A BLACK Country Elite darts squad travels to Exeter to take on a Devon All Stars side for a friendly fixture at the end of next month.

A full weekend of events at the oche will see the West Midlands contingent meet the home line-up on July 29-30.

A 17-strong group, led by Martin Greenwood, will make the trip to the city's All Stars Sports Bar, where the action will begin on Saturday after a blind draw. All players will first undertake a first-to-four legs game. Sunday will see eight doubles matches, under a format to be decided.

Sponsors who are interested are invited to get involved by calling 07388 822 310 or you can message Martin directly on Facebook.

Martin and Richard Duncan have organised the Halesowen Open knockout tournament this Saturday (June 17), as a tribute to Ben Morse. Ben, 36, was killed after being hit by a car in a suspected hit-and-run incident on May 1.

The Open takes place at the Yeltz Bar, on Old Hawne Lane. The £5 entry fee for players will split between the prize pot and the Just Giving fund for Ben's family. Register by 1pm for a 1.30pm start.



SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

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Josh weights to grab his treble chance

WEST Bromwich's Josh Stokes will be planning to come down the weights after he's learned his craft as a professional boxer.

His progression continues when he looks to make it a hat-trick of paid victories at Walsall Town Hall on Friday, July 7.

The 23-year-old features on BCB Promotions' 'Made in the Black Country' show, sponsored by the Grosvenor Casino Walsall.

Stokes has boxed at cruiserweight on both occasions and looked imposing but plans to campaign in the, at least, light heavy division as his experience grows. It was at 81kg that he had more than 50 amateur bouts for Wodensborough Boxing Club, before turning over this year. He might even make super middle.

He has outpointed journeymen Mitch Mitchell and Curtis Gargano without conceding a round so far and now awaits his next test over four rounds.

He's had just a week off training since the Gargano fight on May 12 to go on holiday to Las Vegas with his younger brother Tom, who is also an unbeaten pro. One-to-one coaching at Johnson's Wednesbury Boxing Academy along with sparring alongside the likes of Jamie Cox, Ricky Summers and Lennox Clarke is helping him to progress further.

Bloxwich duo Luke Paddock and James Beech Jnr enjoy home advantage with Burton's Leon Gower also featuring. Stokes' West Bromwich cohort Tommy Loach also appears in the home corner, as do Tivdale's Ryan Davies and Brummie Aaron Murphy.

The Black Country's only female pro boxer Lauren Johnson, from Wolverhampton, and Swadincote super light-weight Connor Parker complete the card. Tickets are on sale at £30 and £60 ringside from the Town Hall Box Office on 0845 111 2900.

Drury praise as comeback earns Brummies a draw

BIRMINGHAM staged a stunning comeback to snatch a last gasp 45-all draw at home to Eastbourne last Wednesday.

The Surestop Brummies found themselves trailing by ten points with just three races remaining. But two 5-1s from maximum man Liam Carr and Guest No.1 Max Clegg in Heats 13 and 15 saw the Perry Barr outfit gain something for their efforts.

Brummies boss Graham Drury was full of praise for both sets of riders after a series of heavy showers threatened to dampen proceedings.

"When the rain came down I thought 'oh no, here we go again'," said Drury. "But not one single rider was fazed by the conditions and not one single complaint was heard."

"As for the way the meeting went, what a comeback that was from us. That's why we're back-to-back league Champions because riders who represent Birmingham Speedway never give up."

BIRMINGHAM 45: Liam Carr 15, Max Clegg 12-2, Tom Bacon 10, Layne Cupitt 3+1, Darryl Ritchings 2+1, Kyle Roberts 2, Macauley Leek 1.
EASTBOURNE 45: Jake Knight 13, Matt Williamson 9, Charley Powell 6+4, Tom Perry 7, Matt Bates 5+3, Taylor Hampshire 3, Mark Baseby R/R.

No doubting Thomas ready for Pics job

WAYNE Thomas believes the time is right to step into management after taking over at Rushall Olympic.

The 38-year-old played more than 300 professional games for the likes of Stoke, Burnley and Southampton.

Having now obtained a UEFA 'A' Licence, Thomas worked at New York Red Bulls before helping to coach Kidderminster Harriers under-19s last season, a role he will combine with his position at Dales Lane.

"I'm massively excited about taking over at Rushall," he said. "I've got ambitions as a manager and Rushall seemed a perfect fit in terms of

Football

what they want to achieve. They match my own ambitions. We want to build a successful side, really get engaged and involved with the local community and get more people through the gates."

Thomas will be assisted by Will Ryder and Trevor Burroughs and the management team will be holding an open trial tvening on Monday, June 19 for players over the age of 19. Report to Dales Lane at 6.45pm with full training kit.

The Pics have been boosted as Player of the Year Sam Whittall has signed a new deal. Former

Hednesford goalkeeper Dan Crane has also joined the club.

Meanwhile, season ticket prices have been frozen. Early bird prices, up to June 30, are £137.50 for adults, rising to £150 and £74.50 concessions, rising to £80. There is an added incentive, however. If 50 tickets are sold, the adult cost will fall to £115 and 100 sales will cut the price to £100.

All season tickets will include a voucher for fans to bring a family member or friend to a league game of their choice for free.

Cost for the 'Magnificent Seven' scheme, allowing people to attend seven games of their choice is £49 or £28, while under-16 season tickets are £45.

O'CONNELL ON MOVE TO BURY

WALSALL boss Jon Whitney was dealt a blow in his pursuit of Eoghan O'Connell after the defender joined League one rivals Bury.

Whitney was hoping to bring O'Connell back to the Banks's after a successful loan spell from Celtic last season and was hopeful of a permanent deal for the 21-year-old.

But O'Connell, out of contract at Parkhead this summer, agreed terms on a three-year deal at Gigg Lane on a free transfer.

The signing represents something of a coup for Bury boss Lee Clark who, ironically, was beaten to the loan signing of O'Connell by the Saddlers back in January when manager of Kilmarnock.

Cork-born O'Connell, a cousin of Irish rugby legend Paul, featured for the Hoops in the Champions League before making 17 appearances during his stay at the Banks's. Whitney will now turn his attentions to other defensive targets as he looks to reshape his squad ahead of next season.

Impress

The boss last week claimed two defenders had verbally agreed to join, while the club are waiting to hear back from academy product Matt Preston, who has been offered a new two-year deal.

Whitney has meanwhile promised every player will get the chance to impress during a hectic pre-season schedule. The Saddlers have eight matches scheduled in an 18-day period between July 15 and August 1, including high-profile home fixtures against Albion and Villa. Other games include Stafford Rangers, Chester City and Lincoln City, for whom Whitney represented as a player.

"There'll be a chance for all my players to prove themselves - I'll give them all a chance to try to get themselves into my reckoning," he said.

"They will get opportunities and there will be enough minutes for them. There will be a chance to impress."

He continued: "First of all it's mainly to get match fitness. I've got a certain amount of games that I want the players to play in and a certain amount of minutes to try to aim for."

Kit marks start of new Errea



Florent Cuvelier and Amadou Bakayoko model the new Saddlers strip

WALSALL'S new home and away strips have gone on sale at the club shop after the designs were released online. The new strips have gone down well with supporters, with 94 per cent of respondents to a poll in The Chronicle's sister publication the Express & Star.

The kit is the first one produced by Errea, who designed the shirts with the club. They signed a three-year deal after previous manufacturers Carbrini were ditched for failing to provide last season's shirt before the campaign started.

Adult shirts retail from £39.99 to £44.99, shorts for £14.99 and socks (7-11) at £8.99. Junior shirts are from £27.99, shorts £10.99

and socks (12-2 and 2-6) for £6.99. Both shirts will have the HomeServe logo on the front, after the Walsall-based company signed a five-year principal partnership last month.

HomeServe are offering two fans the chance to get their hands on the club's new third kit before anyone else, and competition winners will also meet the team at an open training session later this summer.

They have challenged supporters to photo themselves wearing one of the two new kits in the most creative places imaginable and upload it onto HomeServe's Twitter or Facebook pages with the hashtag #SaddlerSelfie.

The competition is open until July 24.

Perfect start Willenhall sitting pretty

DEFENDING bowls champions Willenhall Nordley A fired out a title warning as they maintained their unbeaten start to the Wolverhampton Senior Citizens League season.

Nordley recorded a crushing 8-0 division one victory against Fordhouses with John Corbett (21-4) and Trevor Lunn (21-4) once again dominant on their home green. The win leaves Nordley a point behind leaders a point behind Cod-sall but with a game in hand.

Codsall also tasted victory in their latest outing, 6-2 at home to last season's runners up Penn A. Graham Wright (21-7) and John Melia (21-7) were the two best winners for Codsall with Lol Ellis collecting the coppers for Penn.

Willenhall Trinity remain on the periphery of the early season title battle thanks to a 7-1 home success over Springvale. Mike Bill (21-5) was their top performer but the league's top player, Peter Prescott, tasted defeat for the hosts as he went down 21-20 to Derek Dace.

The dark horses in this year's title race are Woodfield and their 8-0 win over Essington A has moved them to within seven points of Codsall.

Alan Matthews (21-3) produced an excellent performance to set up the 64-shot success.

It was a good day for Woodfield as their C side just held off Amery 5-3, and by five shots, to record an important victory.

Mick Austin (21-6) gave them a great start, but Amery's Pete Tonks managed to get the Short Heath club to within five shots at the end of the game.

Wombourne A edged past Pennfields A 6-2, although only nine shots separated them. Brian Harman produced the vital 21-11 victory to set up Wombourne's win.

Vacancies as ladies team back in action

WALSALL Ladies FC have reformed for the 2017/18 campaign after a season without an open age group.

All teams will play home games at West Walsall E-Act Academy. Sponsorship is being sought for away kit, track-suits and training kit.

The club runs an FA approved Wild-cats Mini soccer and field teams at open age, under-14s, under-12s, under-10s and under-8s.

New players are welcomed at all age groups and there are vacancies for managers at under10s and 8s level.

Contact Brian 07817 785 690 or email walsallladiesfc@gmail.com

★★★

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